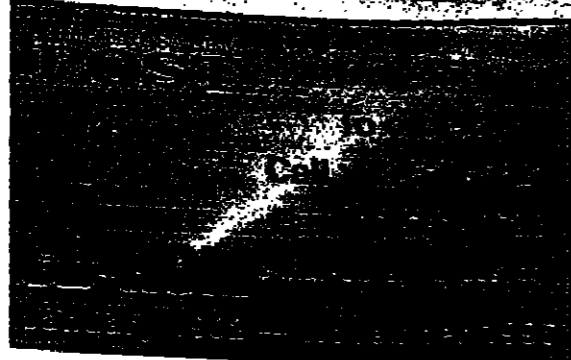


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# THE JERUSALEM POST



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**Zim takes a new direction**

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## Netanyahu, Arafat meet at Erez

### Settlers step up lobbying effort

By HERS KIDON

The settlement council, at an emergency meeting of its plenum last night, stopped short of taking any operative decisions against the government, making do instead with calling on it "not to give up parts of Erez Yisrael."

At a rare and often raucous meeting in Jerusalem of representatives of dozens of settlements, a number of proposals were presented, ranging from mass resignations of settlement heads, to a hunger strike, to building up an alternative right-wing candidate to challenge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the year 2000.

The only substantive decision made, however, was to have each regional council "adopt a minister" to lobby against the agreement. All ministers were parceled out to the various councils, including those who have come out publicly against the agreement.

After two hours of debate, with most of those present calling for protest action against the government, council chairman Pinhas



Prime Minister Netanyahu, left, and Yasser Arafat inspect a map of Hebron at last night's meeting of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Wallerstein read the following declaration: "The council plenum calls on the government to reject the agreement. Who knows if it was not for this purpose that you came into power? Don't give up parts of Erez Yisrael to the Palestinians."

After a number of people in the audience shouted that they wanted action, not words, Wallerstein quickly closed the meeting and started singing "I believe in perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah."

Kiryat Arba lawyer Elyakim Haetzni, who was among the most hard-line of the speakers, saying "The job God gave us is to stand in an uncompromising manner [against the agreement]. If we give in, there's no one behind us. We must stand in the breach, otherwise all of the settlements will be like Hebron."

A more moderate approach was taken by council director-general Aharon Domb, who tried to persuade his colleagues to refrain from waging an all-out war against the government.

### Parties hopeful of completing deal

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat met after midnight last night at the Erez junction, in a bid to conclude the long-awaited Hebron accord and accompanying deal on dates for future pullbacks.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas insisted last night that the remaining gaps were small, and was hopeful that a deal would be reached. The two sides set up a special room to enable them to initial the accord if an agreement was reached.

"We hope there will be a signing tonight. There are still some minor issues which need to be resolved," Abbas told reporters after talks ended in Jerusalem last night.

"The chance that we will finish this evening exists but it is not guaranteed," Netanyahu said yesterday in Jerusalem.

US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington was also upbeat that an accord was in sight.

"I think there's a very good chance we'll see an agreement tonight. Everything is in good shape," he told reporters after emerging from the talks in Jerusalem.

Among the issues which remained open were the question of extradition and the quota of Palestinian security forces.

Attached to the Hebron accord is a "note for the record," citing each side's obligations. Netanyahu has taken particular pride in this document, since he says it deals with the issue of "reciprocity," as Palestinian obligations are set forth, and not just Israel's.

However, there is no explicit linkage between Israeli and Palestinian undertakings, nor are there deadlines by which these obligations must be met, leading some Likud members to doubt that the Palestinians will actually do what is written.

The final draft of the document may include a call for Palestinians to "complete" their amending of the 1964 PLO Covenant, strengthen security measures against terrorism, and ensure the PA act in areas outside its jurisdiction, an apparent reference to Jerusalem.

Israel is expected to be asked to release prisoners, enable the opening of a Palestinian airport in Gaza, and

enable safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza.

The key question of pullbacks is expected to be in separate US letters of assurance to both Israelis and Palestinians.

Officials in Jerusalem made clear last night that they interpreted the Oslo 2 agreement to mean that Israel could unilaterally designate the territories that would be ceded in the three future pullbacks - which will be completed by mid-1998 - and that the scope of the pullbacks was not the subject of negotiation with the Palestinians.

It is precisely this interpretation which has apparently led the US to provide a letter of assurance of its own position to the Palestinians, as well as Israel.

When asked about this at a press conference yesterday, Netanyahu declined to answer and said he would deal with these questions after a deal is reached.

Arafat told a Peace Now delegation last week that he believes the Palestinians will obtain 80 percent of the West Bank by the end of the pullbacks, which are meant to conclude before the negotiations on the final disposition of the territories.

The Israeli position that it can unilaterally designate the territory it seeks to cede is one that has been backed by Joel Singer, the former Foreign Ministry legal adviser who negotiated Oslo 2.

Moreover, Netanyahu won backing yesterday from Meretz MK and former minister Amnon Rubinstein, who wrote a letter to the premier saying that he does not accept the Arafat position as being consistent with Oslo. (Story, Page 2)

### Hadera woman suspected in murder of abandoned baby

By SUE FISHKOFF

A 31-year-old Hadera woman is being held on suspicion of murdering a newborn baby girl, who died yesterday morning at the city's Hillel Yofie Hospital after being beaten and left outside for dead on Monday evening.

Hadera police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Allon Amram said the woman was not cooperating with the investigation. "She won't say anything, even whether or not it's her baby," he said last night. She is to be brought before a Hadera Magistrate's Court judge today, where police will ask for an extension of her remand.

The woman had clearly given birth recently, based on an examination by a gynecologist, he added, but was refusing medical help. She is separated from her husband, with whom she already has a 10-year-old daughter, and is living with her parents in the Neveh Haim neighborhood where the badly beaten, bloodied infant was found.

Last night on Channel 2, the husband claimed that the woman was unstable and had thrown the baby out of the window of her apartment.

Police spent most of Monday night working on the case, and asked local social workers and detectives to visit every home in the neighborhood to try to locate any woman in distress or pregnant. The suspect was then picked up and interrogated.

The medic who was called to take the child to the hospital said the baby had been beaten severely in the head and all over her body, and was completely naked. The medic and a Magen David Adom volunteer covered her with blankets and took her to the hospital.

### Police: Terror likely motive in Jerusalem murder

A Jerusalem man was found murdered yesterday in the house he was building in the city's Ramat Sharet neighborhood. He was apparently murdered by a Palestinian day laborer who is believed to have escaped to the territories.

Police believe the murder of Ya'acov Yamin, of the Gilo neighborhood, was nationally motivated, although they have not completely ruled out a criminal motive. His body was discovered by a plumber who arrived at the house. His skull had been crushed by a blunt instrument.

Plumber Ariel Shustein said he found the body in the basement of the building, and there were signs of severe blows around the ear, and a great deal of blood. A blood-stained chisel was found near the body.

According to relatives and neighbors, Yamin's regular Palestinian laborer failed to turn up yesterday, so Yamin set out

early in the morning to one of the points where Palestinian day laborers are picked up in southern Jerusalem and hired one. At 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., he spoke with his family. His body was found at 12:15 p.m.

One neighbor said he saw a Palestinian worker running from the building. A taxi driver told police a young Palestinian stopped his cab and forced him to drive him to the checkpoint near Bethlehem, where he ran off.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr.

Arye Amit said the chisel was not used to kill Yamin, but rather another tool which was not found at the murder scene. Police drew up a sketch of the suspect based on the neighbor's and taxi driver's descriptions.

One of Yamin's neighbors, Eliezer Schwaber, said Yamin had worked on the house for two years and did most of it himself, only occasionally hiring workers. "He almost finished the building and was unsure whether to rent it out or sell it," he said. (Jtm)

Continued on Page 5

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NEWS in brief

Beilin, Eitan form agreement on Palestinians

MKs Yossi Beilin (Labor) and Michael Eitan (Likud) met last night for discussions aimed at forming a working paper to present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and opposition leader Shimon Peres on their points of agreement regarding a permanent settlement with the Palestinians.

Moussa: Netanyahu welcome after accord

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said yesterday that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would be "more than welcome" to visit Egypt and meet with President Hosni Mubarak after the Hebron agreement is signed and implemented.

Begin to host scientists' gathering

Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin will today host thousands of scientists in Jerusalem at the beginning of the new scientific research year. President Ezer Weizman will also be present at the event, to be held at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

Habad brings more Chernobyl children here

A group of 25 children from the Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia landed at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday as part of Habad's Children of Chernobyl project. Habad has brought more than 1,400 children out of the region that was affected by the 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in Ukraine.

Chance of Syria war greater now - analyst

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The longer the freeze in the peace talks between Israel and Syria continues, the greater the chances are of war breaking out between the two countries, a leading analyst said yesterday, adding that Egypt with its strong armed forces may back the Syrians if battles break out.



Ze'ev Maoz

But other academics and former IDF officers said they saw little likelihood of a Syrian attack on Israel since its army was becoming steadily obsolete and no match for the growing might of the IDF, which is aiming to have in place anti-missile capability by the year 2000.

Nevertheless, Ze'ev Maoz, head of the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said he believed the Syrians would attack Israel out of political rather than military calculations, "even at the risk of severe military punishment."

ter's 1994-1995 Middle East Military Balance.

According to Maoz, the Syrians believed they had been on the verge of receiving the Golan Heights from the previous government and felt "cheated" by the deadlocked talks under Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government.

He said that even if the Syrians did not initiate direct hostilities, an arms race was sure to resume in the Middle East.

"The qualitative military balance favors Israel. The future is extremely bleak from the Syrian perspective," Maoz said, "since (AP) Israel is developing an answer to the Syrian missile threat."

"If the Syrians feel that this missile option might not be available five years from now then their tendency to use them now would be increased," Maoz said.

Egypt on the other hand, according to the balance, has the most formidable armed forces in the Middle East with a modern, Western air force and strong navy.

Maoz also said that Egypt, while focusing its efforts to prevent an escalation of tensions between Israel and Syria, would not likely sit idle if a war broke out.

Israel slams S.Africa-Syria arms deal

PRETORIA (Reuters) - South Africa's proposed sale of weaponry to Syria comes at a bad time for the Middle East peace process and will upset the military balance if it goes ahead, Israel's ambassador to South Africa said yesterday.

Victor Harel said Israel had not been consulted about the plan to sell tank-gun targeting equipment to the Syrians, which has provoked an unusually strong warning from the United States, including a threat to cut off US aid to South Africa.

President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress said that in the past South Africa favored Israel and discriminated against Arab states.

Ministers expect vote today

By SARAH HONIG, DAVID RUDGE and LIAT COLLINS

Cabinet ministers were sure last night that they would today be asked to vote on an agreement with Yasser Arafat. As things stood yesterday it was still nine ministers for, seven against and two undecided - and this despite Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's ongoing efforts to increase his support.

Netanyahu met with Tsomet's Rafael Eitan and with the National Religious Party ministers yesterday in an attempt to change their minds, or at least to soften their opposition to the deal. However, the ministers stuck to their guns.

The undecideds were the Likud's Moshe Katsav and Yisrael Ba'aliya's Natan Sharansky.

The votes Netanyahu can count on are his own, David Levy (Gesher), Yitzhak Mordechai (Likud), Dan Meridor (Likud),

Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud), Yehoshua Matza (Likud), Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way), Eli Suissa (Shas) and Eli Yishai (Shas). The opponents are Ze'ev Binyamin Begin (Likud), Ariel Sharon (Likud), Zevulun Hammer (NRP), Yitzhak Levy (NRP), Rafael Eitan (Tsomet), Limor Livnat (Likud) and Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya).

Netanyahu promised that as soon as the agreements are finalized they would be put before the ministers. The prime minister is sure this would drive home the point that the agreement is not as bad as the opponents claim it is.

However, what he told the NRP ministers and Eitan did not cause them to rethink. "I heard nothing which changes anything," Eitan said. "This is still a very dangerous deal to the Jews of Hebron, to the settlers and settlement endeavor, to Israelis in the heartland and to the State of Israel. We are offering advantages on those who still seek to destroy us."

Hammer said he "heard nothing which changes our position. We continue to remain totally opposed to this agreement. However, I reject calls by some amongst us," notably NRP MK Hanan Porat, "to leave the coalition and bring down the government. We have just come through elections and this is the best government we can hope for. The NRP must remain in the coalition, even though we don't like the agreement in order to exert influence on what will come next and most of all the final status talks."

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher) is demanding a plebiscite on the Hebron agreement. Kleiner yesterday sent a letter to all coalition faction chairmen to support his call. He criticized Netanyahu for treating the delay in the third redeployment as an achievement: "It's like a man condemned to death who gives up on the option of escape in return for delaying the execution by a few months," he said.

Kleiner said that since there was a consensus on holding a public referendum on any possible concession since the Golan Heights, one should be held for Judea and Samaria which are "not only strategically important, but also the inheritance of our forefathers."

MK Tawfik Khatib (Democratic Arab Party) wrote a letter to the premier yesterday which said: "I have heard of the demand by the Israeli Government that Palestinian murderers and assassins be extradited to Israel - a position which seems logical to me. However, at the same time I would like to request - according to the principle of reciprocity - that the Israeli government hand over Jewish murderers and attackers who carried out attacks on the Palestinian population, and as a first step I think Noam Friedman be the first to be handed over."

Mordechai called on the Palestinians to sign the agreement on Hebron and move forward. "They are not doing anyone any good by not signing the accord," he said. "The Palestinians need to be told that this is the line of our maximum flexibility."

Bocheva Tzur adds: In an attempt to get a first-hand impression of the problems facing the residents of Hebron, Jews and Arabs alike, some 200 students from the country's institutes of higher learning were to go to Hebron late last night.

"The students represent the entire spectrum of political life on the campus - religious and secular, Jews and Arabs - and we plan to have a free discussion with representatives of the settlers and the Arab population," said Orr Tamir, spokesperson for the National Union of Israeli Students, which initiated the tour. "Almost half of the students are from Bar-Ilan University, religious and non-religious," she said.

Rubinstein: Arafat wrong on pullbacks

By EVELYN GORDON

The further redeployments called for in the Oslo Accords do not require the government to withdraw from most of Judea and Samaria, contrary to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's position, Meretz MK and law professor Amnon Rubinstein said in a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last week.

"This interpretation of the Oslo Accords, which in my opinion is completely mistaken, works against both Israel and the peace process, because it imposes an impossible dilemma on the government: Either it must openly discard a central clause of the Oslo Accords, or it must agree to forfeit all of Israel's negotiating cards in the final status talks," Rubinstein wrote.

Rubinstein based his interpretation on chapter 17, paragraph 3 of the Oslo 2 agreement. This clause says the PA will control all of Judea and Samaria except "issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations."

Rubinstein said, there is no reason to give a narrow interpretation to the phrase "specified military locations." The previous government interpreted this phrase "flexibly and broadly," he said.

However, he continued, the real key is the word "borders." "The Palestinian side will certainly claim that the intent was only for Israeli control over border crossings," he wrote. "But the agreement says 'borders' and not 'border crossings.' Since the final border is to be determined in the permanent status negotiations, and since the issue of borders was explicitly mentioned in the list of 'exceptions' in connection with the obligation for [further] withdrawals during the interim period, there is in my opinion no basis to the claim that the agreement obligates Israel to withdraw from all (or almost all) of the territories as a result of the redeployments."

If there is a disagreement as to where the final border should be in the final settlement, Israel would not be required to withdraw from that area during the interim period.



Old and new fences

Naim Zalloun, a Palestinian who lives near Kiryat Arba, moves an old wire fence off his land yesterday after settlers discarded it to make way for a new security fence. (Reuters)

PA officials: Council backs Arafat on Hebron deal

By LAMIA LAHOUD

Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat has the backing of his cabinet and most of the Palestinian council for the Hebron agreement and the compromise date for the completion of further redeployments that is set for mid-1998, PA officials said.

PA officials are satisfied with the Hebron agreement, which some said is better than the original accord.

"We have worked out a detailed agreement on the guidelines of the original Oslo accords. It creates the best possible security for both Palestinians and Israelis in Hebron," said Gen. Abdel Razak

al-Yahya, one of the negotiators and co-chairman of the joint security committee.

Another PA official explained aspects that made the new agreement better: "Under the old agreement we were allowed only to carry rifles inside police stations to protect them. Now we have a special police force armed with rifles which can carry out special operations and arrests in our areas of Hebron."

Al-Yahya said it may seem that the PA made lots of concessions, but in fact it was a matter of reaching a better understanding between both sides. He said the agreement reached was good and satisfied both sides' security needs.

Marwan Barghouteh, a leading Fatah activist from Ramallah and a member of the Palestinian council, said the Palestinians obtained the most important thing, namely a US-backed commitment for further redeployments and an acceptable date for the end of the IDF pullback from most of the territories, except settlements and military installations.

He said the Palestinians had finally gotten the US directly involved in the negotiations and were satisfied with the US letter of guarantees. He said they welcomed the Arab involvement, especially that of King Hussein, and hoped that the Arabs will continue to pressure Israel to implement the agreement.

"The most important thing for the Palestinian people is the further redeployment," Barghouteh said.

But al-Yahya said there was nothing in the Oslo agreement committing Israel to withdraw from specific areas at specific times. He said it was up to the Israelis to decide which areas to hand over to the PA during the three phases of further redeployment.

The Oslo accord, he said, only specifies that by the end of further redeployments, Israel should have handed over all the territories to the PA except settlements and specified military locations.

Mordechai visits troubled security zone

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai visited IDF troops in the security zone yesterday as fighting continued in south Lebanon.

A South Lebanese Army soldier lost a foot in a roadside bomb blast in the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone, controlled by troops loyal to SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

Earlier in the morning, two SLA posts in the northeastern sec-

tor of the zone came under long range mortar fire. There were no casualties or damage in the attacks, to which IDF and SLA gunners responded by shelling

suspected Hizbullah targets north of the zone.

Mordechai visited the Taibeh position, in the zone's eastern sector. David Rudge

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The Knesset Knesset Committee for Restoration of Jewish Property The Speaker of the Knesset has appointed a special committee to address the subject of restoration of Jewish property confiscated from its owners during the Holocaust. The committee appeals to all those with an interest in the subject of "lost" Swiss bank accounts, or any other property, to contact it. Please forward photocopies of documents (if you have). All information will be checked and, if relevant, you will be invited to submit further information. Inquiries should be sent to Avraham Hirshenson MK, Chairman of the Committee for Restoration of Jewish Property, the Knesset, Jerusalem 91850 (Tel. 02-679-4185). Avraham Hirshenson MK, Committee Chairman

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MATAN JM Our sincerest condolences to a good friend of MaTan Dr. Zvi Gastwirt on the death of his mother REGINA Malke Bina, Director and the Board of Governors

SOCIAL & PERSONAL THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Yoram Cohen will speak on Jewish Communities in the CIS. Honorary Life Memberships of World WIZO have been granted to former Chairpersons of the World WIZO Executive: Rya Dinstein and Ruth Isakson. The presentations were made at WIZO's Beit HaSim on Monday 13.1.97 in the course of a luncheon held there for the leaders of WIZO federations from around the world now in Israel, to attend the plenary sessions of the World WIZO Executive

Handwritten Arabic text

# Beduin family evicted from Ma'aleh Adumim

By JON IMMANUEL

Almost five months after the High Court permitted the removal of Beduin from land slated for settlement expansion, bulldozers yesterday knocked down three huts and police transferred the family which lived in them to a new site, two kilometers away.

Last May the High Court dismissed a final petition by the Jahalin tribe to be allowed to stay on the land they settled in the 1950s, and their removal was slated to begin August 28.

Talks began for their orderly removal, but the whole issue, which had aroused the ire of the Palestinian Authority, was postponed following the Western Wall Tunnel crisis at the end of September.

The PA demanded that the Jahalin stay put, claiming that Israel had no

right to expand settlements at the expense of Palestinians. Moreover, the land to which the Beduin were being transferred was private Palestinian property belonging to families in Abu Dis.

Yesterday morning, in a first tentative move, police came in and emptied the huts of the Abu Ghabiyeh family, carefully placing small items of jewelry in candy boxes which they then returned to their owners after the demolition.

Eight family members voluntarily moved to the new site; two were forced to leave by police.

The decision to begin the evacuation of up to 20 families was taken three days ago, said civil administration spokesman Peter Lerner. No reason was given for the timing, but it was thought to be linked to the imminence of a Hebron agreement and a belief that the PA would not want to create a new crisis when the

agreement was in its grasp.

The Jahalin moved into Jordan after being pushed out of the Negev desert near Jerusalem, only to find themselves back under Israeli rule in 1967, in a priority area for Jewish settlement.

Ma'aleh Adumim quickly expanded in the 1980s, and is now the largest settlement in the West Bank and has achieved municipal status.

Several of the Jahalin's camps, dotted around the neighboring hills, have been enclosed by the expanding town of 20,000 Jews. Talks on relocating them have been going on since 1989.

Although some 100 Jahalin families already live at the new site near Kidar, they have no permanent right of residence, meaning they could be moved again if the land comes under Palestinian Authority.



Policewomen lead away a Beduin girl yesterday after her family refused to obey an order evicting them to make way for the expansion of Ma'aleh Adumim. (Byron McBurney)

## Coalition MKs want Tarif removed as head of Interior Committee

By LIAT COLLINS

Coalition MKs continue to call for the removal of Salah Tarif (Labor) from the chair of the Knesset Interior Committee.

Tarif, who recently angered coalition MKs with an unscheduled meeting between the committee and Yasser Arafat in Bethlehem, yesterday tried to get a meeting with the Palestinian Authority's Nabil Shaath in Gaza.

Most coalition committee members boycotted the visit saying Tarif had exceeded his jurisdiction, although Emanuel Zissman, (Third Way) and Michael Nodelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) participated. MKs Ze'ev Boim (Likud), Benny Elon (Molodet), Avraham Stein (NRP) and David Azulai (Shas) stayed away.

The seven MKs on the trip received explanations of the checks and controls at the Erez crossing, but the visit was marked by a series of mishaps. First, there was a delay crossing Erez stemming from problems on the Palestinian side. When they finally crossed, the MKs discovered that Shaath and the head of Palestinian security Mohammed Dahlan had called off the meeting with the Israeli parliamentarians, citing unscheduled discussions with Arafat.

The MKs were also stood up by the heads of Jewish settlements in Gaza. Tarif claimed that Elon had achieved a fait accompli by telling them the visit had been canceled, and launched a vocal attack on the absent MKs.

"It's a shame and an embarrassment. It's disgusting and borders on racism," Tarif fumed. "I see no reason for such an important tour to be boycotted by MKs. We're talking about the important matter of cooperation with the Palestinians."

The visit was aborted after a tour of the Karni crossing.

## Matza warns new Likud protest group against using violence

By SARAH HONG

Likud secretariat chairman Heath Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday warned a grouping called Otzma LaLikud not to resort to violence or threats of violence, and to keep whatever complaints they have strictly on an ideological basis.

The group, which until yesterday morning was anonymous, put up placards, particularly in the Jerusalem area attacking Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, also of the Likud. Playing on the Hebrew meaning of the name Yitzhak (he will laugh), their signs read "Yitzhak Mordechai, but the nation weeps." The placards were signed "Otzma LaLikud" - power to the Likud.

The group emerged from anonymity yesterday when it sent form letters to all Likud central committee members. Until then no one knew the identity of those behind Otzma LaLikud. In the letters, they are identified as Daniel Richter, Avi Grubber and Daniel Griessero, the chairman, director-general and spokesman of the group.

They say they have set up an Internet site and will next seek to put out a newsletter and collect contri-

butions to form a non-party association like Dor Shalem on the left wing.

The letter claims that 40 Likud branch chiefs belong to the group, but not one is named.

The aim, says the letter, is to "restore ideology to the Likud after the leadership turned its back on the voters and started down the route of the previous government and is implementing the Peres-Beilin formula for the establishment of a Palestinian state."

Matza said he doesn't know the group and has not heard of it, "but the very fact that it functioned anonymously indicates its weakness."

"Anyone who calls for the convening of the central committee to deliberate on the fateful developments of recent days is right because our central committee has been out of action for too long, unlike the party executive bureau. We need party executive discussion. However, anyone who engages in threats and/or violence will not be suffered in the Likud movement and I also caution these people, whoever they are, not to start collecting money because they will violate political funding laws and will get themselves into trouble," he said.

## Local psoriasis drug applies for FDA testing

By JUDY SEGEL

A California company that purchased the rights for a psoriasis drug developed by Hebrew University researchers has applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for permission to conduct clinical trials.

The HU research team that developed a new approach to the treatment of psoriasis, based on the molecular structure of the skin disease, is headed by biochemistry Prof. Alexander Levitzki, Prof. Hanna Ben-Bassat, director of experimental surgery at the HU-Hadassah medical school, and Dr. Aviv Gazit of the organic and biological chemistry department.

The compounds they developed aim at halting the developing of psoriasis, a chronic condition of apparently genetic origin that causes red, itchy patches on the skin. It

affects about three percent of the population and cannot be prevented. Previous research showed the decisive role of the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor in the control of skin growth. Under normal conditions, skin growth factors are sequestered in a controlled manner among the skin cells, but in psoriatic cells, the growth factors are constantly present at higher concentrations in produced uncontrolled growth.

The HU researchers found they could slow down the growth of psoriatic cells by blocking the EGF receptor.

The Sugen company of Redwood City, California purchased the rights from the HU's research and development arm, Yissum, and filed an application with the FDA for starting clinical trials at New York's Mt. Sinai Hospital.

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Jerusalem

day

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Arafat

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By EVELYN GORDON

Most coalition committee members boycotted the visit saying Tarif had exceeded his jurisdiction, although Emanuel Zissman, (Third Way) and Michael Nodelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) participated. MKs Ze'ev Boim (Likud), Benny Elon (Molodet), Avraham Stein (NRP) and David Azulai (Shas) stayed away.

The seven MKs on the trip received explanations of the checks and controls at the Erez crossing, but the visit was marked by a series of mishaps. First, there was a delay crossing Erez stemming from problems on the Palestinian side. When they finally crossed, the MKs discovered that Shaath and the head of Palestinian security Mohammed Dahlan had called off the meeting with the Israeli parliamentarians, citing unscheduled discussions with Arafat.

The MKs were also stood up by the heads of Jewish settlements in Gaza. Tarif claimed that Elon had achieved a fait accompli by telling them the visit had been canceled, and launched a vocal attack on the absent MKs.

"It's a shame and an embarrassment. It's disgusting and borders on racism," Tarif fumed. "I see no reason for such an important tour to be boycotted by MKs. We're talking about the important matter of cooperation with the Palestinians."

The visit was aborted after a tour of the Karni crossing.

Matza said he doesn't know the group and has not heard of it, "but the very fact that it functioned anonymously indicates its weakness."

"Anyone who calls for the convening of the central committee to deliberate on the fateful developments of recent days is right because our central committee has been out of action for too long, unlike the party executive bureau. We need party executive discussion. However, anyone who engages in threats and/or violence will not be suffered in the Likud movement and I also caution these people, whoever they are, not to start collecting money because they will violate political funding laws and will get themselves into trouble," he said.

A California company that purchased the rights for a psoriasis drug developed by Hebrew University researchers has applied to the US Food and Drug Administration for permission to conduct clinical trials.

The HU research team that developed a new approach to the treatment of psoriasis, based on the molecular structure of the skin disease, is headed by biochemistry Prof. Alexander Levitzki, Prof. Hanna Ben-Bassat, director of experimental surgery at the HU-Hadassah medical school, and Dr. Aviv Gazit of the organic and biological chemistry department.

The compounds they developed aim at halting the developing of psoriasis, a chronic condition of apparently genetic origin that causes red, itchy patches on the skin. It affects about three percent of the population and cannot be prevented.

Previous research showed the decisive role of the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor in the control of skin growth. Under normal conditions, skin growth factors are sequestered in a controlled manner among the skin cells, but in psoriatic cells, the growth factors are constantly present at higher concentrations in produced uncontrolled growth.

The HU researchers found they could slow down the growth of psoriatic cells by blocking the EGF receptor.

The Sugen company of Redwood City, California purchased the rights from the HU's research and development arm, Yissum, and filed an application with the FDA for starting clinical trials at New York's Mt. Sinai Hospital.

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NEWS in brief

MKs protect their vital ability to keep talking

Something got up MKs' noses yesterday. Ear, Nose and Throat specialists from Bikur Holim Hospital visited to examine Knesset members and employees at the initiative of Knesset physician Dr. Yitzhak Lipschitz. The 42 MKs who were examined expressed the most interest in how to protect their vocal chords, which get plenty of use. The medical staff, led by Dr. Elimelech Deutsch, also stressed the importance of not smoking. Liat Collins

Zucker proposes change in film censor's role

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) submitted a bill yesterday proposing that the Film Censorship Board be turned into a rating board instead. Under the bill, the board, which was founded in the British Mandate period, would rate movies according to suitability for different age groups, rather than censoring or banning them. He called censorship a violation of freedom of expression. Liat Collins

Nigeria repatriates foreign workers

Nigeria agreed yesterday to fly home 13 illegal workers, after the government threatened to bar Nigerian Christian pilgrims from entering, the Interior Ministry said. The threat came after the government was unable for months to deport the illegal Nigerian workers, because there are no direct flights between the two countries and European countries refused to allow them transit rights. The Interior Ministry proposed that the illegal workers be flown back on special direct flights bringing pilgrims. When Nigeria refused, Interior Minister Eli Suissa said he would deny visas to the pilgrims. An estimated 1,000 Nigerian pilgrims are expected to visit in the next month. AP

Knesset committee calls for mixed IDF courses

Women officer cadets in the border police should be allowed to train in the male officers training school (Bahad 1) along with other combat soldiers and not in the all-women training school (Bahad 12), the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women said yesterday. The committee recommended the IDF carry out a pilot program of at least three courses in which women cadets would train alongside male cadets. Naomi Chazan (Meretz) said the combined program is in keeping with the "positive trend" in the IDF to open more jobs to women. Liat Collins

Hundreds of antisemitic sites spring up on the Internet

Hundreds of Internet sites have been set up to spread antisemitic and racist material, a large part of it on Holocaust denial and the rest on racist incitement against Jews and other minorities, according to the Forum for Combating Antisemitism. These sites have links to other such sites, the forum added. The forum, headed by cabinet secretary Danny Naveh, met at the Prime Minister's Office for a session yesterday. It includes representatives from research institutions which study antisemitism around the world

and ways to fight against it. "We have to think of ways that we can cooperate with various bodies and governments around the world to fight against the spread of hatred on the Internet," Naveh said. Naveh suggested that Israel draw up an international covenant, with UN backing, setting restrictions on the spread of racist material on the Internet. "This is not only an Israeli problem and a Jewish problem, but a worldwide problem," he said. Among those who attended yesterday's ses-

sion were representatives of Tel Aviv University and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, two groups here which monitor antisemitism. Efraim Zuroff, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem, noted that there are "no international laws putting limitations on Internet material." The Internet has become "a giant supermarket in which there is a lot of garbage," he said. Zuroff noted a phenomenon which is occurring mostly in the United States in which professors who are Holocaust-deniers have opened personal antisemitic pages

through their university Internet system. He said that the center had been dedicating much efforts in recent years to tracking antisemitic material on the Internet. Zuroff said the best way to combat the problem would be to get the suppliers of Internet services to set standards for eliminating racist and antisemitic material. Roni Shtaub, of the Tel Aviv University center, said the main source of the antisemitic sites is the US, but their numbers are rising in Europe, especially in Germany and Scandinavia. (Itm)

Christian clergy left in visa limbo

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Hundreds of Christian clergy and church workers in Bethlehem are in a legal state of limbo with no visas for either the Palestinian Authority or Israel, Christian sources said recently.

In Israel and those parts of the territories under Israeli control, clergy and church workers receive special visas from the Interior Ministry. According to the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the Authority must now provide permission for these people to live and work in areas under their jurisdiction.

However, the PA has until now been unable to undertake the task.

According to an informal compromise, the Interior Ministry agreed to provide visas through the end of 1996, but now it has stopped doing so and the PA has yet to issue such visas on its own.



On the right track

Women from Hadassah and other women's organizations ride a special train from Haifa down the coast yesterday in support of rail travel as a way to reduce traffic accidents and pollution. Meanwhile, special stamp albums with the theme of road safety have been designed by the Philatelic Services and purchased by education departments in various parts of the country. The Postal Authority said yesterday that teaching youngsters using stamps can gradually improve the situation. (Text: Judy Siegel, Photo: Avi Hayoun)

Government hospital workers shut down services today

By JUDY SIEGEL

Between 8 and 11 a.m. today, services at Sheba (in Tel Hashomer), Rambam (Haifa), Hillel Yoffe (Hadera), Barzilai (Ashkelon), Assaf Harofeh (Tzrifin) and Wolfson (Holon) Hospitals will be seriously disrupted.

Some 9,000 administrative and maintenance workers at the government hospitals are protesting over "broken promises" by the Finance Ministry to grant duty allowances to a number of employees whose names were agreed upon in a special inter-ministry committee.

As a result, outpatient clinics will be shut down

during the three-hour strike; sterile laundry will not be supplied, radiology institutes will close, and no cleaning will be done. In addition, technical services and medical registration will not be carried out in the six hospitals.

Union chief Batya Levy announced the sanctions yesterday without informing the Health Ministry. If the union's demands are not met, the workers will hit other state hospitals as well in the future.

No comment was available yesterday from the Finance Ministry spokeswoman. The Health Ministry spokesman said he hoped the Treasury would meet its commitments to the union.

Hanegbi refuses to file charges against judge over haredim slur

By EVELYN GORDON

The Knesset Law Committee and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi faced off yesterday over whether disciplinary charges should be filed against a Beersheba judge who made allegedly insulting remarks about haredim.

Judge Oded Alyagon, president of the Beersheba Magistrate's Court, made the remarks at a farewell party for a retiring judge at the end of August.

"We have become a target for parasites to whom ideas such as the rule of law are utterly alien," Alyagon was quoted in the press as having said. "These people, who have never contributed a jot to the country, have set themselves

the goal of seizing control of the legal system, or intimidating it, so that they can continue to milk the state's resources without disturbance."

Hanegbi told the committee he considered Alyagon's statements very grave, especially as they were not made in a moment of anger but were part of a printed speech he had prepared in advance. However, he said, he did not think disciplinary charges were the proper response.

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had reprimanded Alyagon, he said, and that was sufficient. Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) disagreed. Despite Hanegbi's objections, he insisted on a vote on whether the committee should re-

commend Hanegbi file charges.

"I insist the minister consider filing charges against the judge for this grave act," Yahalom said. "I suggest that the committee vote on the matter."

"I ask you not to do this," Hanegbi said. "It is not proper for a Knesset committee to recommend trying people without hearing what they have to say. Such a thing has never happened in this committee before."

Yahalom insisted on a vote. Alyagon had been invited, he said, and it was not the committee's problem that he chose not to appear.

The committee voted 6-1 to recommend Hanegbi file charges, in a straight party-line vote. However, Hanegbi promptly announced he would ignore the committee's re-

commendation.

Yona Yahay (Labor), who cast the only vote against, said he agreed that Alyagon's statements were very grave, but said they had to be seen in the context of what was happening at the time.

"[These remarks] weren't made in a vacuum, but against the background of demonstrations against the Supreme Court and attacks against Justice Barak which put him in need of a bodyguard," he said, adding that he therefore felt Barak's reprimand was sufficient.

Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) said remarks such as Alyagon's merely serve to justify the haredim's belief that the judicial system is prejudiced against them. Therefore, disciplinary charges would be appropriate, he said.

Panel urges medical tests for foreign workers

By LIAT COLLINS

Foreign workers should undergo medical tests within three months of their arrival, Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher) said yesterday.

Levy suggested the workers undergo tests to insure that documents they bring with them aren't faked. The Health Ministry would determine what tests are required. "The person who first decided to bring foreign workers here

would not have made the decision had he known the reality today," Levy said. "The problem of foreign workers is difficult both for the workers themselves and for the Israeli economy. If we don't put things in order, foreign workers will fill jobs in all branches of the economy up to the military."

The committee warned of the dangers at building sites where workers live in trailers. Levy said the trailer homes must have all the regular permits required by plan-

ning and construction law and be called on Interior Minister Eli Suissa to ensure checks were carried out at all such sites.

Police representative deputy Commander Monique Goldwasser told the committee a special unit established to deal with quick deportations would start working within the next two weeks.

Levy said the committee would focus future discussions on determining reasonable conditions for deportees in hostels, instead of prisons.

Poraz campaigns for animal ambulance

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz-Shinui) is fighting the government's opposition to a bill he submitted calling for animal ambulances to be exempt from import duty, as are ambulances for humans.

Poraz's bill follows the still unresolved case of an animal ambulance donated by Chai

(Concern for Helping Animals in Israel) to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Tiberias. The ambulance was bought at a cost of \$26,000, raised by Chai and other groups in the US. But the Customs Authority is demanding \$40,000 in import duty to allow it in the country.

Chai representatives said they were led to believe the donated ambulance would be exempt from

taxes, like ambulances donated to Magen David Adom. The vehicle is fully equipped to handle humans as well as animals to enable it to meet the definition of an ambulance. It is meant to serve the entire northern area, including the Golan, and is adapted to serve in difficult terrain. It is also equipped with a tow hook to transport a horse box, because of the problem of injured and stray don-

keys found in the north.

Animal welfare groups and MKs, including Poraz, have unsuccessfully lobbied the authorities for more than a year to allow the animal ambulance to be brought into the country free of import duty. Chai last year held demonstrations in the US which attracted senior members of the Jewish community and Congressmen.

Advertisement for 'book SPEAK HEBREW!' featuring a cartoon illustration of a family and text describing the book's purpose and availability.

Advertisement for 'book READER OFFER' featuring 'BUTTONNEER' and 'ADDITIONAL FASTENER REFILL PACK' with a detailed order form.

Advertisement for 'US senators pleased with Arrow project' by Steve Rodan, discussing the Arrow anti-missile defense program.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Babi kept ret files on ex-Nazis' and 'BABY'.

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### Rival calls to impeach Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AP) — A leading Communist urged parliament to impeach the ailing Boris Yeltsin, but the president's doctors said he was recovering well from pneumonia and was "significantly better" yesterday.

Lawmakers' previous attempts to oust Yeltsin have failed and the latest move appeared to have little support. In any case, the strong-willed president would be certain to resist any moves against him by parliament's Communist-dominated lower house.

A draft resolution, proposed by Communist lawmaker Viktor Ilyukhin, calls on Duma members "to regard the powers of the president as prematurely terminated due to his consistent inability to perform his duties for health reasons."

The proposal says the Federation Council, parliament's upper house, should "confirm the Duma decision and set a date for presidential elections."

Duma speaker Gennady Seleznyov said the resolution has been submitted to the chamber's legal section for review and a parliamentary debate on impeachment could take place in about a week.

He acknowledged that any impeachment attempt would be a long, cumbersome process. Constitutional clauses about dismissing a president "are very vaguely written," Seleznyov noted.

Alexander Kotenkov, Yeltsin's envoy to the Duma, said the draft resolution was "legally groundless" and he called it an attempt to "aggravate the political situation in the country."

Yeltsin, meanwhile, remained hospitalized for a seventh day yesterday at the Central Clinical Hospital outside Moscow, but doctors who examined him in the evening found him "significantly better," the Kremlin said.

"His physical activity has increased and only some occasional wheezing sounds in his lungs remain," the presidential press service added.

Yeltsin was able to start holding working meetings yesterday, and he met for 40 minutes with his chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais. Chubais was believed to be the president's first visitor, other than his family, since he was hospitalized Jan. 8 with double pneumonia.

### Stasi kept secret files on ex-Nazis

BERLIN (AP) — Former East German officials kept secret files identifying ex-Nazis living abroad so they could press them into service as spies, Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal said in an interview published yesterday.

East Germany "withheld essential information so that hundreds of Nazi criminals would remain unpunished," Wiesenthal told the weekly magazine *Super Illu*. Wiesenthal said East German authorities sought both "to have West Germany branded the only Nazi state" and to gain leverage over ex-Nazis living abroad who might be used as spies.

### BABY

Continued from Page 1

More rare are cases of young, unwed mothers who give birth in secret and abandon the child in the street, or on a hospital doorstep.

"This is a very unusual case," Kadman said. "The mother was not young, and she was [separated], not single."

Overall, the number of abandoned children in general, and infants in specific, has been on a steady decline for years. Kadman says official figures show eight infants and children were abandoned in 1995 — the last year for which records are available — in contrast to 72 abandonments in 1990.

"Girls are more sophisticated today," said Miriam Faber, head of child protection officers at the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

Greater knowledge of birth control means fewer young girls are getting pregnant unintentionally, she said, and those who do get pregnant are more likely to turn to hospital abortion committees. Also, more single teenagers are deciding to keep their babies.

"The phenomenon of infant abandonment is very, very rare today," she said. Hospitals now offer programs to help parents of severely handicapped newborns, such as Down Syndrome babies.

The infant, which weighed 2.9 kilos and had a body temperature of just 28°C when she was admitted to Hillel Yaffe in critical condition, died yesterday at 9 a.m.

# Milosevic foes declared winners

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

BELGRADE (AP) — After eight weeks of opposition protest against Slobodan Milosevic, election commissions in Serbia's two biggest cities — Belgrade and Nis — declared the opposition victors yesterday.

The Serbian president is believed to control both commissions. Yesterday's rulings suggested he was bowing to domestic and international pressure to concede the opposition wins in the Nov. 17 municipal vote. Annulment of those wins by Milosevic courts sparked the protests.

Milosevic's Socialists have 48 hours to appeal the commission rulings, and the opposition was cautious.

"I believe nothing," said opposition leader Zoran Djindjic, who would become

Belgrade's mayor if the results become official. "This is another attempt to buy time. We will continue our protests."

Djindjic said the opposition wanted to see all of its election victories recognized, and its members actually taking power.

"Belgrade is only a part of the whole package," he said. "We don't trust this regime until our deputies constitute the city council."

International mediators have backed the opposition claim that it won Belgrade, Nis and 12 other large Serbian towns.

The Belgrade decision was announced by the head of the city's election commission, Radomir Lazarevic. Hours later, the local electoral commission in Nis, Serbia's second largest city, also conceded the defeat of Milosevic's party there, the opposition announced.

The announcements, though, were not

followed by any immediate movement by the local council representatives to vacate their offices.

They came a day after a half-million people jammed Belgrade's streets for a protest and celebration of New Year's Eve according to the old Orthodox calendar.

The Belgrade ruling not only included district councils within Belgrade that Milosevic already had given up, but the main city council that controls the entire Serbian capital.

Lazarevic said that the opposition coalition Zajedno, or Together, would have at least 60 seats of the 110 seats in the main city council. Milosevic's leftist coalition would have only 23 seats, with the remainder going to other parties.

The results were identical to those originally announced by the Belgrade commission but later annulled.

Last week, Serbian courts had ruled the opposition won Nis, but the city's electoral commission resisted the order.

The opposition said the Nis commission had declared the opposition won 41 seats on the 70-seat Nis City Council. Twenty-eight went to Milosevic's neo-Communists while ultranationalist Radicals had one.

The announcements were unexpected. Independent media earlier yesterday had predicted Milosevic was ready to cave in to demands to recognize the opposition wins in 13 other towns and cities, but not Belgrade.

Vuk Draskovic, Djindjic's partner as leader of the opposition, said that the move "could mean that the Serbian government made a step toward sanity."

The independent *Dnevni Telegraph* daily said Milosevic hoped to lessen international pressure by conceding defeats in

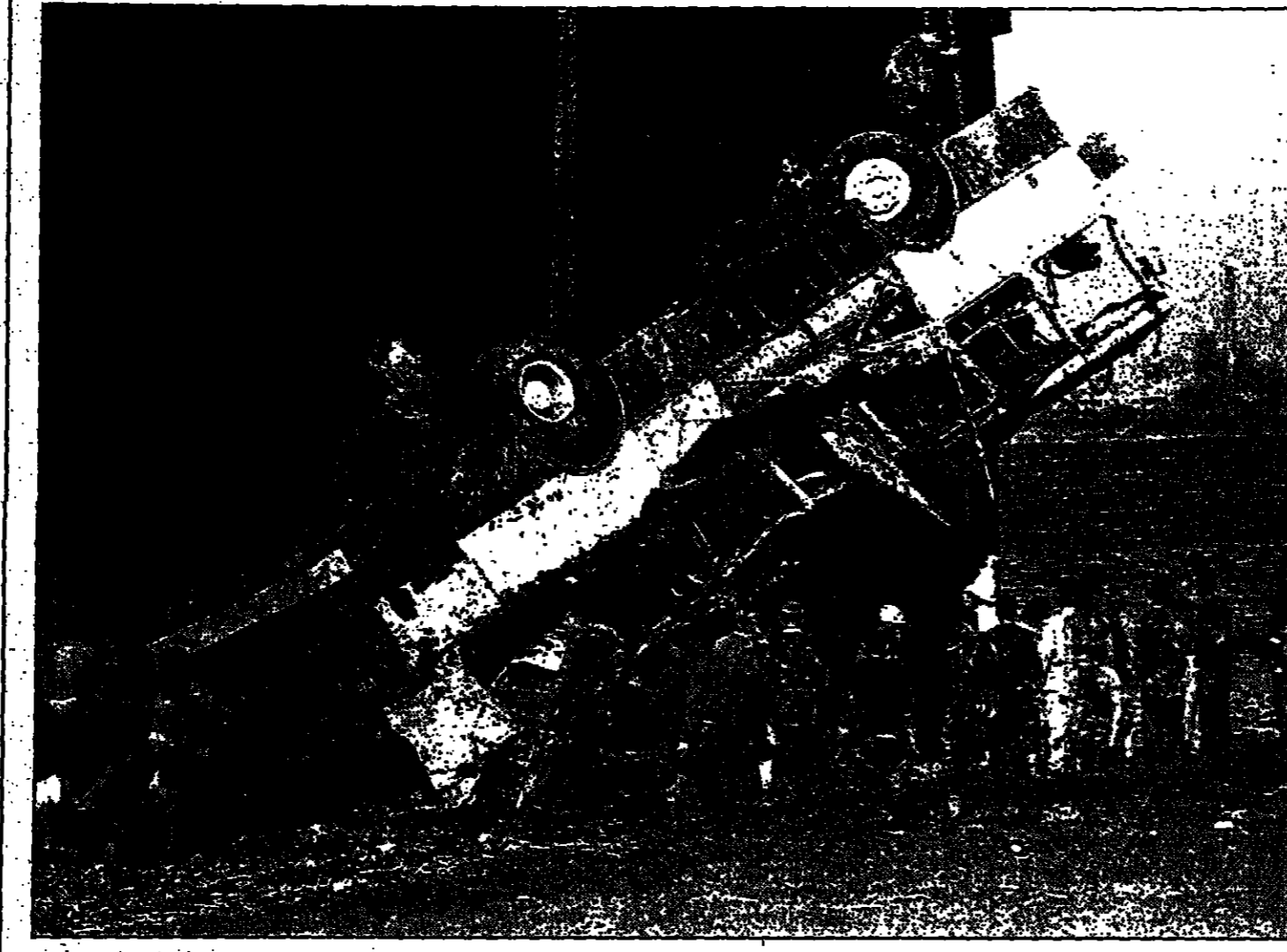
less important communities. This would make it easier for him to use force against the demonstrators in the capital, it said.

But the long struggle with the opposition has exposed deep splits between moderates and hard-liners in the Socialist Party. Despite relentless pressure at home and abroad, Milosevic had refused anything more than minimal concessions.

Lazarevic said the results would be official only after the 48-hour appeal period. There was no indication immediately whether Milosevic's Socialists would appeal.

The rulings could end the nearly two months of daily street protests — the most serious challenge to Milosevic in his nine years in power.

They could also end a near state monopoly on the media by giving the opposition some of the state-run news outlets.



Salvage workers work around a bus which dove into the Nile yesterday, killing at least 39. (Reuters)

## 39 die as bus plunges into Nile

CAIRO (AP) — Hafsa Abdel-Wahab was going to a college exam yesterday when the bus she was on suddenly veered, tore through a bridge's metal railing and plunged into the River Nile, killing at least 39 passengers.

"It felt like the bus went over a big bump and then it landed on its back in the mud," the 20-year-old woman said from a hospital bed where she was examined for back injuries. "Everyone was screaming and panicking."

At the el-Sabel bridge in northern Cairo, rescue teams pulled out bodies submerged in the mud near the river's edge where the red and white bus landed.

A pool of blood — which dripped from the bus — was visible in the water as workers used a crane to lift the upside-down vehicle back onto the bridge 35 meters above.

At least 39 people were killed, and 29 survivors were hospitalized. Some passengers also walked away from the accident.

There was no immediate, official explanation for the accident. Witnesses said the bus driver was speeding and

veered across the road divider into the opposite lane.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency quoted passengers as saying the driver may have suffered a heart attack.

"The driver fell on the steering wheel ... and suffered a sudden bout of vomiting and lost control," the agency quoted one unidentified passenger as saying. The body of the driver, Mohammed Kamal Abdel-Wahab, was among those recovered from the river.

Prime Minister Kamal Ganzoury went to the scene and praised the speed with which rescuers got to the bridge, which is about 4 km north of the city's center. "If the rescue operation was not so quick, those rescued alive would have been dead," he said.

Interior Minister Hassan Alfay said the sharp drop from the bridge and the mud that oozed into the overcrowded bus caused the high number of casualties.

Several passers-by who helped in the rescue expressed despair at being unable to pull more survivors from the mud.

## Major rushes for survival vote

LONDON (AP) — Praying for a mass change of heart by the electorate, or perhaps just prolonging the agony, Prime Minister John Major is using every trick in the book to hang on to power for the last few months of his five-year term.

The battle requires physical stamina and good poker nerves, is clear. Yesterday, Major cut short a visit to Pakistan, flying home to Parliament for a midnight vote on the budget.

A defeat on this, or any other bill, would almost certainly lead to a vote of confidence. And if Major lost that, the government would be finished.

"Parliament is a hard taskmaster ... I dare not fail to be back in time to vote in London this evening," the Conservative Party leader explained to businessmen before leaving Lahore.

What is less clear is why Major, with no overall majority in Parliament, appears so keen to stay until the May 1 deadline for national

elections. Under the British parliamentary system, an election can be held any time within a government's five-year term.

The government can choose an earlier date, or have one forced on it by losing a confidence vote in the House of Commons.

After nearly three years of record unpopularity and with bookmakers making the left-of-center Labor Party 3-1 favorite to win, the options for the Conservatives are narrowing.

All look tough. Barring a confidence vote, the three most likely election dates are March 20, April 10 or the May 1 deadline.

Years of defeats and defections finally cost Major his parliamentary majority last month. He is now two short of a majority in the 651-member Commons and dependent on support from nine Northern Ireland Protestants.

Every vote, big or small, is a test of survival. Shortly before Christmas Labor pulled out of a cooperation deal known as "pairing" after the Conservatives were caught cheating by pairing one absent member of their party with two absent members from different opposition parties.

Some 20 points behind Labor in most polls, Major appears to be hoping that Britain's strong economy, and a modest tax cut effective in April, can still draw back Tory defectors.

A pattern of economic recovery after recession has helped keep the Conservatives in power since 1979. But the party has never been so unpopular for so long.

"The signs are that economic optimism is improving ... although it doesn't yet seem to have fed into people's willingness to vote Conservative," Donald McIntyre, political commentator in a liberal London daily, *The Independent*, said yesterday.

## Danish queen marks 25 years on throne

COPENHAGEN (Reuters) — Denmark's Queen Margrethe II yesterday began a mixed three days of mourning and festivities, marking 25 years since the death of her father, King Frederik IX on January 14, 1972, and her accession to the throne.

Accompanied only by close family and friends, the 56-year-old queen visited her father's tomb in the ancient cathedral of Roskilde, west of Copenhagen, yesterday morning for a private memorial service.

Later in the day the royal family went to church again in parliament's Christiansborg Palace chapel, where they were joined by King Harald of Norway and the presidents of Finland and Iceland for a thanksgiving service.

Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf, Margrethe's cousin, did not attend. He is in mourning for an uncle, Prince Bertil, who was buried in Stockholm on Monday.

Queen Margrethe is also related to Britain's Queen Elizabeth and separately to Prince Philip, but no member of the British royal family is attending the Copenhagen jubilee, Danish court officials said.

The Danish celebrations are low-key, with none of the public partying seen at the British queen's jubilee and no holiday to mark the occasion.

Main events are a state banquet in the parliament building yesterday and a ceremonial carriage ride through the capital today, followed by a gala Royal Danish Ballet performance in the evening.

Swedes were reminded how fiercely Danes cherish their monarch recently, when a Swedish journalist's criticism of Margrethe's public smoking looked set to revive traditional enmity between the neighboring

kingdoms. Gothenburg newspaper columnist Hagge Geigert said that the queen "puffed away freely" during a visit to asthmatic residents of an old people's home.

The Swedish offensive unleashed a tidal wave of outrage and Copenhagen newspapers covered their front pages with indignant headlines.

"Smoke War against the Swedes," "Let the Queen Smoke in Peace," "Mind your own business, Sweden" and "Keep up the puffing, Margrethe" were only a few.

## SETTLER

Continued from Page 1

"I don't think that he [Netanyahu] loves Eretz Yisrael any less than we do," he said. "We should not make things look worse than they are. I suggest that we behave maturely. Not all the protests and demonstrations can be repeated."

At that point, Bella Gonen, a Kiryat Arba local council member, shouted out, "Sit quietly, and let the prime minister sell the country."

The gathering, something that ordinarily takes place only every few years, was called for by the settlement council after it appeared that Netanyahu had agreed to proceed with the next three stages of redeployment.

The council has interpreted his willingness to do so as meaning that at the end of the third stage, Israel will have already given up 90 to 95 percent of Judea and Samaria.

Wallerstein said that, in principle, this does not have to be the case, since the Oslo accords say that after the third withdrawal stage, all areas will be given to the Palestinians except for military installations and settlements.

Some, like former education minister Amnon Rubinstein, have interpreted this to mean that much of the land will remain in Israeli hands, if by settlements what is meant is not just the built up areas of settlements, but also land around the developed areas that is included in various master plans.

"I definitely think this has to be Israel's position," Wallerstein said. "The question is whether this interpretation will be acceptable to either the Palestinians or the Americans." Wallerstein said his fear is that the government will not be able to stand by this interpretation.

"This fear is great," he said, "[because] the government has not been able to stand firm on anything."

## SYRIA AND ISRAEL - From War to Peace-making

Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp. JP Price NIS 149 plus NIS 6 p & h in Israel

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## The price of water

**R**AIN is finally beginning to fall again, ending weeks of unseasonably warm and dry weather. The beautiful weather was made less enjoyable by the daily reminders that Lake Kinneret is inching toward its minimum mark, and is over half a meter below the level of this time last year. This week's rains will not be enough to wash away the threat of drought, and Israel is once again reminded of the dangers ahead if questions of water supply are not addressed.

Israel has three main natural sources of water: the Kinneret, and two large aquifers, one under the coastal plain and the other under the mountainous area of the north. The demand for water is growing at a steady clip, as the population and standards of living rise. The supply from these natural sources is, meanwhile, decreasing as the country moves dangerously close to depleting the aquifers, particularly the larger coastal one.

In the past few years, salinity in the coastal aquifer has been rising, and even the pumping of fresh water from the Kinneret into the aquifer has not entirely reversed the trend. On top of this, Israel has also committed itself to providing Jordan with 215 million cubic meters of water a year, and there is the fear that uncontrolled Palestinian drilling for water in areas under Palestinian Authority control will further endanger Israel's fresh water supply. For years now, water experts have been warning of the crisis ahead, but as of yet no serious steps have been taken to address the situation on a long-term basis.

Whenever a drought looms, as at the moment, the calls multiply for public awareness campaigns to convince people not to waste water on their gardens and cars. Some even look admiringly at cities in the United States and Europe that impose stiff fines for washing a car with a hose, or watering a garden in the heat of the day.

It would be a big mistake for Israel to follow the lead of these countries and focus on personal use as the big culprit in water consumption. There is a much more effective step that can and should be taken immediately: Stop subsidizing water to agriculture and industry.

Farmers and factories are the greatest consumers and the worst wasters of water. The reason they waste so much water is that the government chooses to keep the price of water artificially low in order to assist these sectors of the economy.

Israel is rightly proud of its world-class agricultural technology and of the accomplishment of "making the desert bloom." It is one thing to reclaim barren land and another to grow water-intensive crops, such as wheat and cotton, which are only economical with subsidized water. It makes no sense to complain about a water crisis while Israel continues to grow wheat in the desert.

The issue here is not whether agriculture or industry should be subsidized—that may be a bad idea for other reasons. What is hard to understand is why a form of subsidy that is pitching the country headlong toward a water crisis should continue. It would be better to hand the farmers cash than to continue to subsidize water.

The fact that the price of water is determined by politics and not the market causes other harmful distortions. Lots of money is wasted, for example, by pumping substandard water across the country for agriculture, when the sensible thing would be to treat the water and use it locally.

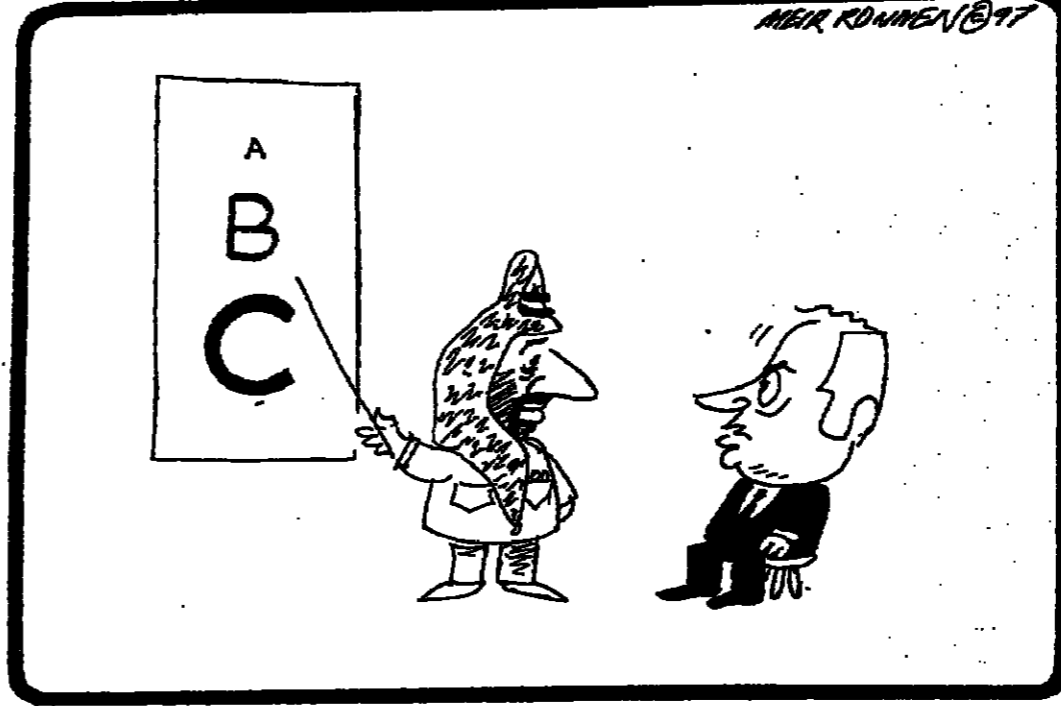
In addition to freeing the price of water, the market ought to be opened up by breaking the monopoly of the government-owned company Mekorot, which should be privatized. The introduction of free market forces will have a doubly positive effect: Water conservation will be greatly increased and new sources of water will be developed.

While the supply of natural fresh water is limited, Israel has large reservoirs of brackish water that could be desalinated for about the same price as the real market price in some parts of the country. Even if the waste from desalination is ended, desalination, and recycling of waste water will be needed to meet the growing demand. At the end of the day, there is no long-term water crisis—only a question of how much water will cost.

Telling the farm and industry lobbies that their free ride on the water slide is over will not be politically pleasant, but it is absolutely necessary. Clearly it cannot be done overnight, and compensation of some form will probably be necessary over the transition period. But the longer it is put off, the more Israel flirts with a water crisis born of political weakness rather than real natural limits.

The longer the government waits to administer the unpleasant medicine, the more bitter the medicine becomes. The question is not whether Israel will get the water it needs but from where: aquifers, recycling, waste treatment, or desalination. The aquifers are the easiest and cheapest source of water, but if they are destroyed from over use the country will be forced to rely on more expensive sources. If the aquifers are saved by reducing consumption through market pricing, then Israel can prevent, or at least postpone an increase in the real price of water.

By jealously guarding their water subsidies, the farm and industry lobbies are ironically inviting higher water prices in the long run, prices that will hit them hardest as the nation's biggest consumers. The government will be doing everyone a favor, including those who complain the loudest, by mustering the political will to phase out water subsidies as soon as possible.



## Milk that might boil over

**T**HOUGH the issue of Jerusalem is, according to the Oslo Accords, to be addressed only in the final-status negotiations, it is not impossible that the entire peace process could fall apart over events in Jerusalem even before discussions get under way.

There are a number of danger spots. But the catalyst for such a somber development could come from Har Homa, and the proposal currently under consideration to build a Jewish neighborhood there of 6,300 housing units.

As with milk on the gas that is liable to boil over at any moment, we must be constantly on the watch.

Building plans for Har Homa (Jabil Ghanien) — south of Jerusalem and over the Green Line, in the direction of Bethlehem and Beit Sabour — have yet to receive final government approval.

Binyamin Netanyahu is said to have decided against signing the plans at this stage because of the sensitivity of the subject for the Palestinians, because of American pressure, and in view of advice from the security authorities regarding possible consequences on the ground.

Faisal Hussein is mobilizing Arab and international as well as Palestinian public opinion against the project. He has said that, as happened over the Hasmonean tunnel issue, Har Homa could cause a spontaneous explosion in view of accumulated Palestinian bitterness and frustration.

Husseini sees the project as part of a plot to strangle Arab Jerusalem and cut it off from the West Bank in general, and Bethlehem in particular. It would indeed deprive towns like Beit Sabour and Beit Jalla of their natural potential development area.

The nearby village of Umm Tubu would be left with no land for development, following the expropriation in the 1970s of over half its land for the construction of

**DAN LEON**  
 the Jewish neighborhood of East Talpiot and a network of roads which doesn't serve the village.

Former mayor Teddy Kollek admitted that the now-beautiful JNF forest on Har Homa was built after the 1967 war in order to preserve the site for a future Jewish neighborhood. Nearly 2,000 dunams of land there were expropriated in 1991, about a third from Palestinians.

The latter turned to the High Court in 1994, asking that the appropriation be annulled, or housing for Palestinians included

**The simmering Har Homa project could scald the peace process beyond healing**

in the new building project. Overall, between 1967, when the Palestinians owned about 90 percent of the land of East Jerusalem, and up to 1995, Israel took over 87 percent, leaving only 13.5 percent for the Palestinians to live on and develop.

At 170,000, the Jewish and Arab populations of East Jerusalem are now about equal.

**THE MOST** militant protagonist of the Har Homa project is Mayor Ehud Olmert. Along with the NRP, he bears the standard raised aloft by the late deputy mayor, Shmuel Meir.

Olmert, who brooks no compromise on the plan, criticizes the government's hesitation over confirming it. He supports exclusively Jewish housing because of his principled opposition to binational neighborhoods (but supports building for Jews in the tiny Arab-inhabited Ras al-Amud area, another danger spot).

He would like to see continuous

Jewish building on Jerusalem's southern belt, between East Talpiot and Gilo.

One unexpected supporter of Har Homa is former Labor housing minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who said recently in *Ha'aretz*: "Jerusalem is being transformed into a divided city with the generous help of the prime minister. There are areas where it is forbidden to build."

What goes on in greater Jerusalem—in Ma'aleh Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev and Betar, places where I fought for continued construction and expansion—makes me weep." Yet under Labor governments, ministers, aware of the implications for peace, refrained from signing the plans for Har Homa, in spite of Ben-Eliezer's tears.

If the political echelon confirms the plan, it might yet be turned down in the courts. Might this not be an honorable way out for Netanyahu?

Ben-Eliezer wants to outflank Olmert from the right in Jerusalem. He is one of the leading supporters of the Barak candidacy; does Barak agree with his stand?

It is odd to find a Labor leader attacking one of Netanyahu's wiser decisions, delaying the plans for Har Homa. It hardly promotes the opposition's credibility, and the Palestinians must be aware that it makes Labor appear more pugnacious than the Likud.

Possible Palestinian reaction? Hussein says the protest against Har Homa will be non-violent, but adds that were Israel to use force to crush it, he fears it could turn violent.

Those who pray for the peace of Jerusalem will ask whether even 6,000 Jewish apartments in the city are worth the risks inherent in the decision to build them, in view of the very grave consequences for both Jerusalem and peace.

The writer is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

## That's how it is

YOSEF LAPID

**R**EMEMBER "The economy, stupid"? It was the slogan that got Bill Clinton into the White House.

And it's our slogan in Israel today.

Now those who follow the media might think that the issue that shapes public opinion is our negotiations with the Palestinians. Indeed, it is the leitmotif of our existence.

But exceptional events aside—terror attacks on the one hand and the signing of agreements on the other—the Palestinian problem isn't what determines the national mood.

How can this be? Isn't the state of play with Arafat the main topic batted around in Israeli living rooms on Friday nights? Weren't we all awash in despair when it turned out that the peace we all yearn for is dissipating to the point of virtual disappearance?

Yes it is, and yes we were. And that is precisely the reason we need to ask why, in that case, nothing has really changed in this country since the elections.

Why hasn't the emotional upheaval accompanying the near-sinking of the peace ship found expression in the public's attitude toward the government? Why hasn't the Left been able to mobilize the street in protest against the abandonment of the Oslo accords?

The political events of the past six months should have caused a huge social upset. They didn't. Why?

And why will the signing of the Hebron agreement make little or no change in public attitudes? Because of the economy, stupid.

**THE MOOD** of the citizenry doesn't sprout from the barrel of a gun. It wafts up from the dinner plate. Shimon Peres would have lost the elections by a greater margin had the economy not been

**It mightn't be pretty. It may not be wise. But the economy rules**

doing so nicely.

It was the economy that foiled the media's attempt to enlist public opinion against this government. Even though our annual growth has gone down from seven to four percent, it's still double the West's.

We still have pockets of poverty and social injustice, and some clouds are visible on the economic horizon.

But the fundamental truth is that nearly every citizen, whether new immigrant or old-timer, Jew or Arab, town-dweller or villager, is better off today than he was a year ago; and a year ago he was better off than he was two, three and four years ago.

It's hard to sell a used car because most Israelis prefer to buy new; it's hard to fill hotels in Eilat because most people go abroad; it's hard to sell small apartments because most people want large ones; and it's difficult to get a table in a restaurant or a Country Club membership because everything is so chock-full.

Even the stock market is flourishing.

This kind of optimism tends to provoke instant anger from the sob sister that nestles in every Jewish bosom. The news departments of TV and radio store lists of families living in packing crates, of sick old ladies and of single mothers besieged by children. They whip them out once a month following publication of the C-O-L index.

Heaven forbid that the suffering of the weak and unfortunate should be shrugged off. On the contrary: The boom that has widened the social gap requires that we spend more on alleviating their condition.

But no social demagoguery can blur the fact that more Israelis today are better off than they have ever been. And this is the real determining index.

Netanyahu can tiptoe along the tortuous path to peace as long as the public's sense of material well-being stays intact.

Economic debates in the cabinet and Knesset, curbing inflation, narrowing the budget deficit, reforming the economy, privatization, low unemployment and high wages—all these will have more influence on the government's public standing than Hebron's future, Arafat's tricks, Assad's threats, Clinton's handshakes, and Hizbullah's terror.

It mightn't be wise, or pretty, it mayn't be desirable. But that's how it is. The political situation isn't the determinant.

It's the economy, stupid.

The author is editorial writer for Ma'ariv.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WORRISOME

Sir, — Recent developments in the country would worry all but the blind. Let me point out two examples.

The first relates to a ranking Histadrut official who disobeyed a court order to appear in court. His utter irresponsibility caused a wild cat strike which paralyzed the country and inflicted heavy economic losses.

The second has to do with the declaration of certain rabbis that soldiers should refuse orders requiring them to vacate parts of the Land of Israel. Directly or not, such declarations have brought about the tragedy of an Israeli soldier shooting at Palestinians in Hebron, injuring several of them.

Yes, one need be blind not to be worried, and irresponsible not to insist that the government sees to it that everybody obeys the law. We must end our ways, or the state will disintegrate.

RENE WEIL  
 Jerusalem.

### BUS TRAVEL TO EGYPT

Sir, — Your reports on the canceling of Egged bus No. 100 to Cairo might leave the uninformed with the mistaken impression that the bus travel to Egypt has been discontinued. This is far from the case. Your readers still have the option of a reasonably priced trip.

For many years, I have traveled to and from Cairo by bus, without the assistance of Egged. There are at least two private tour agencies that run this route (Nizza Tours and Mazada Tours). I have used them with satisfaction. Your readers may be pleased to know that, unlike the Egged route, there is still at least one bus every day and frequently a night bus. This convenience costs only slightly more than Egged charged for less of a service. The round-trip is only NIS 150 and, for a minimal extra charge, a traveler can even have the necessary Egyptian visa within days.

ARTHUR BRAUNSTEIN  
 Jerusalem.

### VERBAL GUNSHOT

Sir, — Amotz Asa-El's attack on modern religious Zionism ("Where are you, Rabbi Reines?" January 3) sprayed verbal gunshot at so many religious and political figures both past and present that to defend some of them would appear to imply agreement with his assault on the rest. How does one reconcile Asa-El's praises of "broad-mindedness" with the undiscerning tone of his invective against "the assorted Druckmans, Porats and Levingers"? Still, it is impossible to gloss over the confusion between form and content in Asa-El's characterization of Rabbi Kook as "Hegel-inspired." Although he did not "sport a Ph.D. from prestigious Central European universities" like the rabbis and politicians idealized by Asa-El, Rabbi Kook's philosophical proficiency was wide-ranging and not limited to Hegel. The content of his writings, while borrowing terms from these philosophers, is all based solidly on Torah sources.

Asa-El attempts a corollary between secular education and a dovish political stance. But Rabbi Professor Nahum Rabinowitz of

Ma'aleh Adumim was among the Labor government's critics, while serving in that government as a distinguished rabbinical colleague without any secular academic credentials. Asa-El's assertion that the Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria has failed "to win most Israelis' sympathy" is simply untrue. Public opinion polls have demonstrated consistent popular support for Jewish settlement.

But most significantly, Asa-El's suggestion for religious Zionism—concentrating only the people and Torah while "leaving the Land of Israel for later generations"—is an echo of the traditional haredi, anti-Zionist position, that would postpone the reclamation of the Land of Israel until messianic times when the people, through their Torah observance, would be "worthy" of it. The position advocated by religious Zionists, Rabbi Reines included, was that the land should not wait.

The wholeness of that vision is more important than who has a Ph.D. and who does not.

RABBI JONATHAN BLASS;  
 Neve Tzuf.

### WISE MEN OF CHELM

Sir, — I would recommend that the entire State of Israel turn out in force to express their appreciation to the leadership of the Histadrut, which is certainly deserving of being credited with being wiser than the wisest men of Chelm. At a time when tourism to Israel is suffering, resulting in significantly reduced income for thousands of citizens, the brilliant leadership of the Histadrut chooses to further damage the all-important tourism industry by shutting down Ben-Gurion Airport and causing untold grief and hardship to so many innocent victims. What a wonderful taste of the Holy Land these people will have. And, imagine the ultimate impact resulting from the word-

of-mouth networking of this wonderful experience.

I doubt seriously if the salaries of the Histadrut leadership will be diminished as a result of the strikes they have sanctioned, but those of the working class they allegedly represent will most certainly be adversely affected.

Someone should inform these modern-day wise men of Chelm that communism is virtually extinct and that this type of interruption of major services is outrageous. A court injunction against disruption of such vital services is indeed in order, and failure to comply should result in incarceration for the offending Histadrut leadership.

RONALD L. GRAY  
 Staten Island, N.Y.

## A pivot called reciprocity

A.M. ROSENTHAL

**B**INYAMIN Netanyahu spent most of the last few months trying to show the world that he was negotiating with the Palestinians in good faith.

Now he faces the job for which he was elected: either to show Israelis that he can give them a peace with security, or to tell them in decent time that it cannot be done—not now and probably not for many years to come.

Netanyahu said before he was elected that he would work within the framework of the Oslo agreement signed by the defeated Labor government, and which he mistrusted. That meant giving up major West Bank towns, including Hebron. He got somewhat more security for those 400 Hebron Jews who believe it is not a crime for Jews to live in one of Judaism's holy cities.

But to make future talks worth holding, he needed conditions on how to go on from Hebron—specific and internationally publicized steps of reciprocity from the Palestinians. To get that he paid a price.

Assuming the agreement is approved by Yasser Arafat, who has been walking away from it for about two months, Netanyahu agrees to a final deployment from the West Bank by September 1998—almost a year before he wanted.

There is nothing approaching agreement on how much of the West Bank the Israelis will leave. Eventually that and Jerusalem will be the make-or-break issues.

Netanyahu, and his supporters, see territorial negotiation as a matter of survival, time to spot and mobilize against attack.

He is likely to insist on military control of at least 40 percent of the West Bank outside the towns, much high ground and almost all

men. Extrajudicial terrorists in Palestinian custody. Twelve of the 27 terrorists on Israel's wanted list are wearing Arafat's police uniforms now. Most of the others are walking free.

Closing offices outside Palestinian-controlled territory. Most important: no longer using Orient House in Jerusalem as a foreign office.

Stopping the constant verbal incitements against Israel by Palestinian officials, Arafat on down.

If Netanyahu gives up any of these conditions, he may kill the chances of majority support in his cabinet.

For its part, Israel commits itself to a preliminary redeployment and the beginning of final-round talks, both within two months.

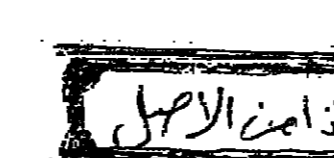
It agrees to consider these steps: stopping closure of its borders against Palestinians as an economic punishment, release of current "security" prisoners, free passage between Gaza and other Palestinian-controlled territory, and a Gaza international airport.

Egypt and other Arab states will have fascinating fits if Arafat lives up to the reciprocity conditions. They know it would remove Palestinians from the constant state of political warfare against Israel that has been basic Arab strategy for a half-century.

So I doubt Arafat will live up to the reciprocity conditions for long.

But whatever he decides, ending the anti-Israeli political war will remain an underlying condition for ever turning peace talks into peace reality. That has been written in blood, for so long.

(Courtesy of the New York Times)



Powerful ranger

Wh

National Park

To add some adventure

Due to annual maintenance, the cable car at Masada will resume operation on Monday, January 19, 1997.

PARENTING

# Powerless rangers

By RUTH MASON

**I don't allow my boys to watch Power Rangers on TV, but they see it at other people's houses. Then they come home and start kicking and hitting each other. What can I do?**

**Marcia Levine-Shapiro, psychotherapist, Counseling Center for Women and chief psychologist, Beit Haseked, replies:**

It is very tough to control what your children watch at someone else's house. But just as with vegetarians visiting meat-eating friends, or children who keep kosher playing at the home of friends who do not, you can teach them to say, "I'm not supposed to watch that." If you children are not able to resist the temptation (and it is a big one for young children), you might try to coordinate television-watching with their friends' parents if they are willing.

You should be aware, however, that studies have not proven conclusively the effects of viewing TV violence. Despite our best efforts, children will continue to be bombarded with macho Ramboesque figures on TV and in computer games. Even certain of our heroic historical figures are of the blood-and-guts variety. But in my experience, children who are not aggressive in the first place do not develop aggressive, bullying characteristics through media violence saturation.

What is the meaning of children's adoption of the voice, stance, and combat techniques of "power" figures? They represent power over fear, over powerlessness. Children imitate these figures in an effort to capture those same protective, powerful psychic properties. We find even in the most pacifist, weapon-free house, where children are minimally exposed to media violence, that ladies become swords and dolls become cannonballs. This kind of play meets the needs of children who are in reality quite vulnerable. They need to feel powerful, in control, able to defend themselves against real and imagined dangers and non-specific anxieties.

This kind of play may also serve as a way to "sneak in" an expression of real anger against the person with whom the child is "fighting."

But, other than understanding what else can you do? Firstly, limiting programs conveys a message about acceptable behaviors and can reduce exposure to negatively stimulating and frightening graphic violence. Secondly, clearly delineate fantasy play from reality, emphasizing the make-believe aspect, and prohibiting games if anyone really

gets hurt. Thirdly, let the children imitate and practice on inanimate objects - not you, the cat or each other. Fourthly, if it appears the children are using this behavior as a channel for expression of specific anger, work on more appropriate and effective ways of expressing these feelings, such as identifying that they are angry and talking about it. And lastly, since children and adults often feel powerless and frightened, give them other tools for understanding and coping. Fears are not our enemies; they warn us of danger. There are other ways to combat them than becoming fear-inducing objects ourselves.

Even Power Rangers often feel like powerless rangers. Even though we may wish for ultimate power, there is always someone stronger. And as on the larger political front, the threat and power-escalation game tends to be less effective than negotiation.

There are many other kinds of power and courage which can be taught directly or through modeling the behavior: endurance, walking away from trouble, knowledge (the pen being mightier than the sword), etc. It is often useful for children to learn martial arts which emphasize discipline and control and instill confidence rather than aggression.

The key here is confidence, and identification - especially with powerful parents - is a way of gaining confidence. The fact that young children idealize their parents is central to their development. You are not only a loving, warm parent mirroring to your children how great they are, you are, to them, powerful figures, confident of your ability to fix things, to help. Even though you don't always feel that way, don't disillusion them yet!

Despite the fact that we as parents are no longer the distant, omnipotent figures of earlier generations, we may want to shield our children from both our most irrational and realistic fears and anxieties. This doesn't mean you can't tell your children you are afraid of roller coasters; it is important that they know that you can tolerate and respect a self who is also sometimes afraid. But maintaining an illusion of a safe place inhabited by powerful, protective figures, for long enough to build a sense of security is an invaluable gift to give your children.

Last week's question about preparing children for possible rejection from schools was answered by Sylvia Zilberman, senior educational psychologist. Her name was inadvertently omitted.

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

**T**here are no free lunches - or rather afternoon teas - even if one happens to be the wife of the president. Reuma Weizman, who hosted wives of foreign diplomats stationed in Israel for afternoon tea at the Israel Museum and accompanied them on a tour of the Port-Aven exhibition, was constantly taken aside by the museum's PR personnel to pose for photographs. The event was further proof that female ambassadors get the best of both worlds. They get to hobnob with the men on matters of state and with the women at events organized for diplomatic spouses.

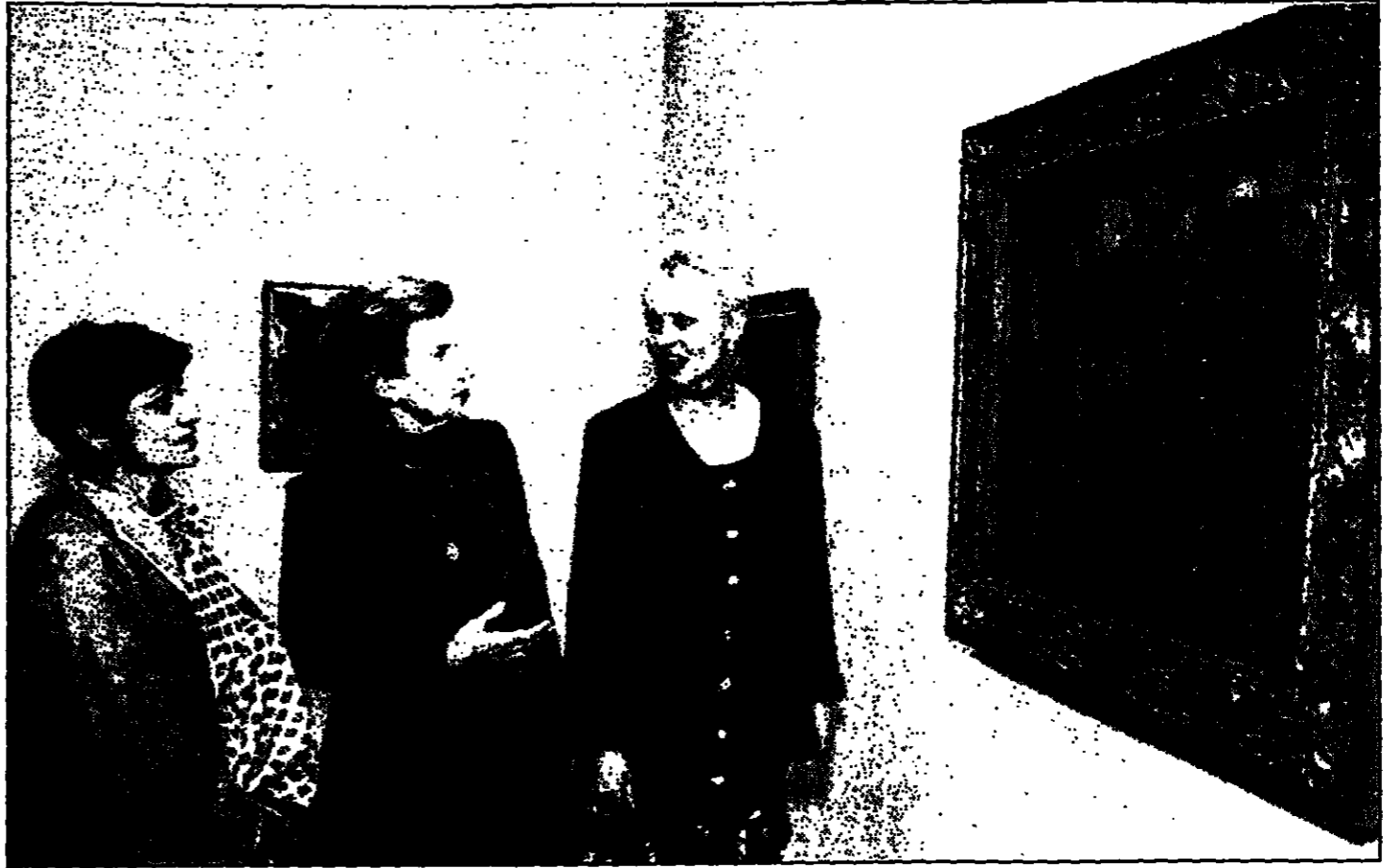
Weizman's guests included Slovenian ambassador Darja Bavdas Kuret, who brought along her husband Milos, and Philippines ambassador Rosalinda de Perio-Santos. Weizman was particularly happy to see Mohini Manon, the wife of the Indian ambassador, in whose company she had recently spent a week during her husband's state visit to India. Another guest at the museum was Ninette Monod, wife of the Swiss ambassador, who will be traveling to Basel with the Weizmans later this year for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the First Zionist Congress.

Monod, a former El Al stewardess, met her husband in Israel 30 years ago. He was then working for the Red Cross and they were both invited to a garden party at the home of the then Swiss ambassador, little realizing that one day they would be taking his place.

**AND TALKING** of 100th anniversaries, Amy Kronish, curator of Jewish and Israeli Film at the Israel Film Archive at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, went just slightly beyond a century when she chose a clip of Jerusalem to show to members of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel in a seven-clip film lecture on 100 years of Zionism through Israeli cinema. This documentary, the first film made in Balesgine, was produced in 1896. Most of the footage shown was of the Old City, and members of the audience delightedly pointed to still recognizable sites. Among those present was newly appointed AACI National Executive Director Leah Ronen.

**DEFENDING HIS** decision to

# No free lunches



Reuma Weizman (center) accompanies the wife of India's ambassador Mohini Manon (left) and Maatchan Land, the wife of South Africa's ambassador, on a tour of the Israel Museum; Koor's Benny Gaon turned to his son for a bit of ghost writing. (Flash 90, Israel Sun)

join the team of Labor leadership candidate Ehud Barak, MK Uzi Baram, in an address at the Radisson Moriah Hotel to a joint meeting of the Jerusalem Economic Forum and the Israel Management Center, produced a letter from dove Shlomo Avineri commending his stand.

**THE MOST** visibly active Labor MK, who's not running for leadership this time around, but who's preparing the ground for high placement in the Labor primaries is Ophir Pines. Pines was in the forefront of this week's witch-hunt against the hapless Roni Bar-On whose period of tenure as Attorney General was so short, that he never even got to sit down in his office.

**APOLOGIES** notwithstanding, President Ezer Weizman will have a hard time living down his anti-gay remarks. One of the new entertainers on the drag-queen circuit goes by the name of Miss Ginger in recognition of the spice that disagreed with the president during his tour of India.

**IT WAS** almost, but not quite, a diplomatic gaffe. Maatchan Land, wife of the South African ambassador, has been trying for years to give up smoking. While visiting her local pharmacy, she saw a package of ginseng cigarettes, which are nicotine-free and which are often used by smokers who can't quit the habit cold turkey. She thought it was a bit strange that the cigarettes were yellow instead of white, but presumed that the color had something to do with the cure.

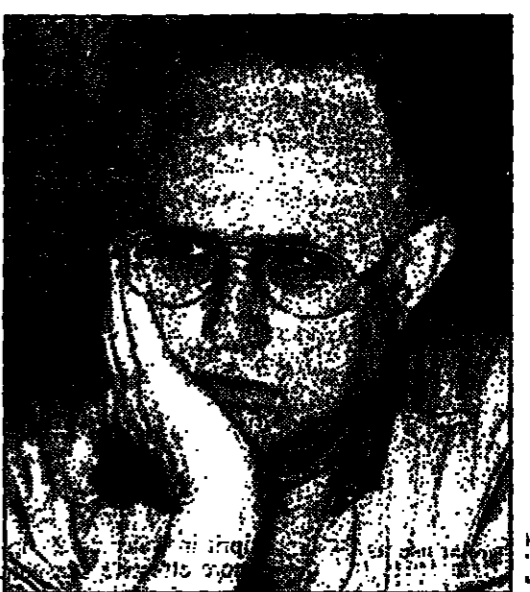
Feeling the urge, she lit up at the beauty salon while waiting to have her hair done. The smell was distinctly evocative of pot, and everyone in the salon was quick to say so. There was nothing on the package to indicate any marijuana content in the blend, but Land has butted out until it can be established whether her ginseng fags can be legally puffed in Israel.

**MOST** autobiographies of the rich and famous are produced with the aid of ghost writers. When Koor CEO Benny Gaon

was looking for someone to help him write his, he didn't have to go very far. His son, Boaz Gaon, is a journalist who was only too pleased to help out his dad.

**AFTER A** 13-year hiatus, it looks as if Richard Gere may find his way to the Holy Land for the opening of an exhibition of his photographs. Word is out that Gere will be here at the end of April, but negotiations have yet to be finalized.

**HER CAREER** on both the large and the small screen will be to say the least - ephemeral. Elizabeth Hurley, who was catapulted into the international public eye when her boyfriend



Hugh Grant played hooky with a hooker, may be beautiful, but she just can't act. After being roughly panned by the critics, Liz has decided to call it a day with the flicks and to focus on being the face that promotes Estee Lauder cosmetics.

# Where the word is mightier than the knife

**D**ecember is the cruelest month for girls in Kenya. It's the time when ritual circumcisers are busy slicing off part or all of adolescents' external genitalia as their rite of passage into womanhood. In one area of Kenya, 95 percent of girls over 12 are circumcised.

But, this past December, 49 lucky girls in the Tharaka Ntithi district, 150 kilometers northeast of Nairobi, celebrated their coming of age without spilling a drop of blood. Their mothers had joined a program offering an alternative rite: initiation or "circumcision" through education.

Instead of the traditional week-long seclusion to recover from the wounds, there were five days of classes on male and female anatomy, reproduction, decision-making, pregnancy prevention, and control and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. On the sixth day, the girls, aged 14 to 20, were showered with gifts from their parents, relatives and invited guests, and, dressed in new clothes, celebrated their entry into womanhood in a public ceremony similar in form to the traditional one.

Before the official ceremony began, the mothers sang and danced for their daughters. "The people of Tharaka Ntithi will be forced to listen, even if they don't want to, as nothing will force us to circumcise with a knife," one mother sang. "Listen so you hear and don't make a mistake: No one forced these girls to refuse female circumcision. They decided for themselves, as did their parents."

They sang another: "We will teach all good qualities of the tradition but will not circumcise with a knife, only through education," the chorus sang, repeating the words of a song.

"*Ntithi na Mugambo*" literally "circumcision with words" but translated as "circumcision through education," is catching on quickly in Tharaka Ntithi, where - prior to the new program - researchers found that 90 percent of the interviewed women over the age of 14 had been been circumcised, often in very hygienic conditions. Female circumcision is practiced in more than half the districts in Kenya. Ritual circumcisers are active in 28 African countries.

Besides the immediate physical and psychological trauma of this "surgery," which often results in hemorrhage, infection, and even death, there are long-term effects, including painful intercourse, difficult childbirth, and incontinence. Governments, international development agencies, the UN, women's organizations, and professional associations have condemned the practice, but have yet to translate their policy into effective projects at the community level.

Credit for the idea of an alternative rite goes to Margot Zimmerman, who for the past three years has been the director in Kenya of the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), a US-based non-governmental organization dedicated to improving health - especially

## A new ritual for adolescent girls is helping to eradicate female circumcision in Kenya, Esther Hecht reports

of women and children.

"They said female circumcision was traditional, but the most important parts of the tradition - educating a woman for adult life - were lost," Zimmerman said. "Circumcision also meant the end of a girl's schooling. All that was left was the cutting." She proposed maintaining the celebration and reinstating the educational aspect of the initiation, albeit with modern content, thus creating a substitute rite of passage.

Initial responses to the idea were negative. "That's a Western idea. Alternative rituals are not part of their tradition," she was told at the headquarters of Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization (MYWO),

the largest women's organization in the country. But MYWO was committed in principle to eradicating the mutilation, and eventually saw Zimmerman's point. The program in Tharaka Ntithi is a joint project of the two organizations.

To introduce their idea in an area where belief in witchcraft is still strong, the program's planners first had to understand why the practice persisted. Besides being the most significant rite of passage to adulthood, it is also considered to enhance tribal cohesion, provide girls with respect and recognition from their peers, increase a girl's chances of marriage, prevent promiscuity, and promote easy

childbirth. Community enforcement is through myths about an uncircumcised girl: for example, that her genitals will grow uncontrollably, her husband will die, the midwives who deliver her can go blind.

Kenya's first alternative ritual was held this August - another favored month for circumcision - when 28 girls in Tharaka Ntithi district celebrated their initiation in a ceremony attended by more than 400 people from the neighboring villages. They sang songs about the evils of female circumcision and the benefits of staying in school and rejecting the idea of early marriages.

*Ntithi na Mugambo* quickly



## And I Shall Dwell Among Them Historic Synagogues of the World

Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

**GIFT IDEA** For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yom Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past.

Published by Steimatzky. JP Price: NIS 125 plus NIS 7 for mailing in Israel.

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Finance C'ttee okays gas, tobacco tax hike

The Knesset Finance Committee retroactively approved the hikes in gasoline and cigarette taxes that were part of the government's 1997 deficit-reduction package yesterday. The rise in cigarette taxes averaged 15.4 percent, and is expected to bring in NIS 245 million this year. Gas taxes rose 9.2% to 15.1%, depending on the type of gas, bringing in NIS 390m. In addition, the committee approved cancellation of the 33% cut in taxes on heating oil that originally accompanied the gas-tax hikes, which the government revoked when the Knesset refused to cancel a half-tax credit for married working women. This will save NIS 80m.

Opposition MKs opposed the gas-tax hikes, saying they not only violated the government's promise not to raise taxes, but would hurt the poor far more than an income-tax hike would have. The committee did not discuss a proposal to cancel the tax exemption on locally made car air-conditioners, because the Treasury has acceded to Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy's request to reconsider the issue. Cancellation of the exemption, which was also meant to compensate for the failure to cancel the married women's tax credit, would save some NIS 120m. *Evelyn Gordon*

### MKs propose independent review for their pay

MKs Ra'anan Cohen, Elie Goldschmidt (both Labor) and Benny Elon (Molelet) submitted a bill proposing that an external public body determine MKs wages and conditions, rather than parliamentarians themselves. Goldschmidt said such a body should have sole authority in determining MKs' salaries. "The public perceives the situation today as the cat looking after the cream," he said. *Liat Collins*

### Israel, Jordan ease border security checks

A joint Jordanian-Israeli committee is to be established to examine ways of easing security checks on the transportation of goods between the countries. Prior to January 1, all Jordanian trucks were unloaded at the border for inspection, with the goods being taken on to their final destination in Israeli vehicles. This year the governments have allowed drivers to make the journey without transferring the cargo. Now the governments have agreed to hold talks to finalize arrangements, particularly concerning security. Recommendations are expected in two weeks. *David Harris*

### Marketing managers get NIS 9,000 a month

A recently released salary survey by the Association for Marketing Communications revealed the 1996 average gross salary for marketing managers was NIS 9,000 per month, excluding benefits. Established in 1993, the association has 50 members, primarily from high-tech companies in the computer software, hardware, tele- and data-communications, satellite and medical equipment fields. The organization was founded to provide a forum for marketing managers to share information on mutual areas of interest. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Bill: Give unemployment pay to self-employed

MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz-Shinui) filed a bill that would allow self-employed people to receive unemployment pay if they stop their own work and fail to find new employment. To avoid possible exploitation of the law, the bill specifies that the unemployment money would be paid only to those above age 25 who have not worked for a year. Poraz also filed a bill yesterday to ease income-tax payments for those who are paying for their own institutionalization. Today, only relatives who are supporting someone in an institution are granted the tax benefits. *Liat Collins*

## Croatia joins US Balkan cooperation initiative

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Croatia, laying to rest earlier reservations, has agreed to join a United States initiative to bolster economic cooperation among southeastern European countries, US and Croatian officials said yesterday.

"We reached an understanding as to the outlines of our cooperation," US envoy Richard Schifter said after a meeting with ailing Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. Schifter, a counselor at the US National Security Council, said some details were left to be worked out later in the day with the members of the Croatian government but he gave no details. Croatia and neighboring Slovenia were the only former Yugoslav republics to reject preliminary membership in the US-sponsored Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI). The initiative, launched in Geneva in December, envisages bolstering economic, environment and infrastructure cooperation among 12 Balkan countries, including Yugoslavia and Bosnia.

The original invitation to Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro, was temporarily withdrawn because of

political turmoil there during the past two months over disputed results in municipal elections.

Croatia has previously rejected all US and European Union efforts to boost its relations with other former Yugoslav republics, claiming the efforts were aimed at restructuring the federation from which it seceded in blood in 1991.

The country's long-term ambition to join the European Union and NATO made it extremely sensitive to any attempt by the "foreign factors" to classify it as a Balkan, as opposed to a central European or Mediterranean nation.

An editorial in the leading Croatian daily newspaper *Vjesnik* lashed out at the US initiative yesterday, calling it "most unacceptable" for Croatia. It argued that the plan was just a pretext for dragging the country into a political association with other Balkan nations with whom Croatia had had experiences in the past. Tudjman's chief of cabinet, Hrvoje Sarinic, said after the meeting Croatia was willing to accept the initiative, but only in its "concrete" aspects, those regarding building powerlines, gas pipelines and roads.

"The president said in a very strong and clear way that any union or association is out of the question," Sarinic told reporters. Tudjman, 74, who is reported to be suffering from incurable stomach cancer, did not appear before reporters. But Schifter said it was never a part of the initiative to impose a political framework for cooperation in the region.

"I mentioned to the president that precisely this was not the intention," he said, adding that bringing political items on the agenda of this kind would inevitably result in one side getting an advantage over another. Schifter was scheduled to travel to the Slovenian capital Ljubljana later yesterday.

# Israel to join IMF list of industrialized nations

By DAVID HARRIS

The International Monetary Fund has decided to add Israel to its list of industrialized countries, commencing in April, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

In a statement, the central bank said it hopes the listing will help Israel's chances of improving its international credit rating and general economic standing, which is also dependent on the country's future macroeconomic policy and performance.

Currently, Israel is credit rated A3 by Moody's Investors Service and A minus by Standard and Poor's. The higher Israel's credit rating, the less interest it has to pay in raising money on foreign bonds markets.

The decision to include Israel in the list was taken after the central bank called on the IMF to rethink the country's status.

The IMF informed the bank that the decision was taken in light of the ongoing accelerated changes in the economy. In addition South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan have also been added to the IMF's "Ivy League" states, a list which until now included 23 countries, headed by the US, Japan and Germany.

The standard of living, together with economic and financial market development, were given as the reasons for the inclusion of the five states.

"While we've been promoted to the top league, it also means we'll have to achieve more," said a Bank of Israel source. "This

is a significant development, but is in no way a free ticket to ride, therefore we must implement the right economic policies. Any sudden, prolonged increase in inflation for example will stick out as a failing."

A senior adviser to the IMF said that the listing does not have implications. "Each country can borrow according to its needs," said the adviser.

This is not the first time Israel's IMF status has been redesignated. In recent years the Fund decided having just two bands of nations, "industrialized" and "developing" was insufficient. It meant that Israel, Singapore and other comparatively advanced economies were classed alongside poor African and Asian states.

Consequently, over a period of a year the organization created a sub-group of some 20 "emerging markets," which included China, India, and Thailand, in addition to Israel.

Israel's receipt of foreign aid will not be affected by the status changes, but the central bank source suggested the new status should encourage Israel to think about donating aid to developing countries as other economically successful states routinely do.

Another change is being considered ahead of the April publication of the IMF's next survey of world economic developments *World Economic Outlook*. Israel and the other 27 industrial nations will, in all probability, be re-classed as "Advanced Economies."



Steadfast in Seoul

Striking South Korean workers remain defiant despite standing in clouds of tear gas after skirmishes with police as they tried to reach Myongdong cathedral in Seoul yesterday. There was only a token turnout for the nationwide strike which began yesterday, but the militant Korean union movement has ordered its 500,000 members to down tools today. *(Reuters)*

## Shaath: Regional projects frozen since Cairo summit

By DAVID HARRIS

Regional economic projects between the Palestinian Authority, Israel, Egypt and Jordan have been effectively frozen as a result of the diplomatic impasse over Hebron, PA Planning and International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told the *Jerusalem Post* this week.

The failure to achieve a breakthrough on the Hebron redeployment has led to a standstill on the economic front, according to Shaath. "Everything has been frozen, awaiting this opening that I hope will come very soon," he said.

There has been no progress on the multimillion dollar regional projects since the November Cairo economic summit, added Shaath. During the three-day event, Shaath, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and ministers from Jordan and Egypt, told a large audience of businessmen and civil servants from throughout the world that the projects could play a major role in helping the peace process, but Shaath warned that failure to

advance diplomatic relations would also have a knock-on effect on the projects.

"This is pretty much the case," one Israeli dealing with the projects said yesterday. "But there was a similar lull for a couple of months after the Amman summit too. So I wouldn't read too much into it."

However, the source admitted the lack of momentum is disappointing. "But we're beginning to learn to live with disappointments."

It is an inevitable consequence of the lack of progress in talks with the Palestinians, Finance Minister Dan Meridor's adviser on regional development Rafi Benvenisti said last night. "It's all part of the process. You can't separate politics and the economy. To me this is no surprise."

The Israeli side is keen to point out that some of the projects, particularly in the private sector are going ahead according to plan. Much of the groundwork for an industrial area on the Jordanian side of the Sheikh Hussein Bridge has now been completed, for example. While politicians and civil ser-

vants may not be in regular contact over the plans, the various regional infrastructure studies are progressing. Work on plans for a network of roads linking the four regional partners is nearing completion, according to the Israeli source, and should be published shortly.

Little progress was made on the regional projects between the Amman summit in 1995 and last November's Cairo conference. Among the key proposals are joint tourism and transportation developments in the Jordan Rift Valley, Gulf of Akaba and along the southeast Mediterranean coastline.

Meanwhile, construction of the Karmi industrial park in Gaza, has been slowed down in recent weeks. "Some work has been done, but I hope it will propel itself," Shaath said.

Shaath stressed once again the need to end the closure as soon as possible. "I know it's much better now than it was two months ago," he said. "But really ending closure puts mutuality at parity, to allow freedom of trade to function."

## Meridor considers joint projects during Jordan visit

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

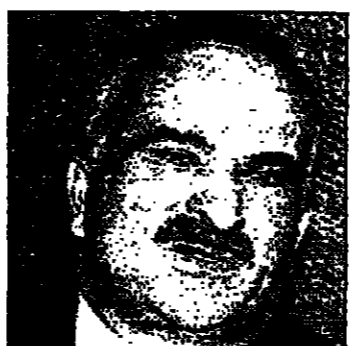
Senior government officials described Finance Minister Dan Meridor's visit to Jordan yesterday as "highly successful," but said many more meetings are needed to establish real progress on the economic front.

During the one-day visit Meridor discussed with Jordanian officials joint development projects and bolstering trade ties.

The first round of talks was held with Crown Prince Hassan, who extended the invitation to Meridor. The meeting was attended by the US ambassadors to Jordan and Israel.

The discussions focused on Jordan Rift Valley development projects ahead of a regional conference between the two sides.

"The talks aim at finding ways to move forward in joint projects and promoting joint ventures," Israel's Amman embassy spokesman Shalom Toungeman told reporters. "There are no specific projects being discussed... They're putting



Crown Prince Hassan  
(Universal Pictorial Press)

ideas on the table and discussing how they can be implemented."

During the meeting, the two discussed the possibility of raising funds abroad for the tourist, airport and other planned projects.

Meridor and some 20 accompanying Israeli businesspeople and government officials later toured the valley. The group was met by 60 Jordanian counterparts for a conference, where they expressed their

desire for improved economic ties.

The Shalom airport project must be advanced as soon as possible, Hassan told the gathering. Meridor also discussed with Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti easing customs duties and finding ways to encourage the flow of people and goods across the border.

In a meeting with Jordanian Water Minister Samir Ka'awar, Meridor and Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir offered to supply Jordan with an additional 50 million cubic meters of water a year, as called for by the peace agreement. It will cost an estimated \$175 million to pump the extra water across the border, and the two sides agreed to look for foreign sponsors for the scheme.

"We need to build a framework of confidence and cooperation, which we are committed to doing," said Meridor.

Both Hassan and Ka'awar said the Jordan Rift Valley projects must come to fruition to ensure stability and economic development in the area.

## Central bank to reduce banks' liquidity by 5%

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Bank of Israel intends to increase commercial banks' liquidity requirements in the near future by 5 percent, a measure expected to restrain the money supply and reduce savers' returns on their deposits, a source close to the central bank said yesterday.

The proposed change is in line with the Bank of Israel's plans to absorb excess liquidity in the market. The money supply, mainly cash and checking accounts, increased by 3% in December, after increasing 0.4% in November and falling by 1.5% in October.

The increase last month was mainly due to large injections by the government to finance the budget deficit, which reached a record high of NIS 4 billion. An increase in bank liquidity requirements will reduce money available to the banks to lend and, in this way, reduce the supply of money in the economy, said a banking source.

Today, savings deposits for a period of up to six days have to meet a 6% liquidity requirement. On deposits of seven days and up to a year, there is a 3% liquidity

requirement. Under the new proposal, the liquidity requirements will be raised to 11% and 8% respectively.

The Bank of Israel will not pay interest on the money banks deposit to cover for the higher liquidity requirement. As a result, banks will not be able to take advantage of all the money deposited with them. This is expected to lead to a reduction in credit interest and an increase in banks' margins.

The move contrasts with the Bank of Israel's liberalization program, which was implemented in 1987, when the average commercial bank liquidity requirement stood at 63%. However, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel is worried by the fact that the domestic deficit has not only exceeded its target, but is partly financed by foreign currency, at the expense of raising capital in Israel. Raising capital on the local market is a method of absorbing money from the public.

The Bank of Israel is expected to announce the new proposal in the near future. A Bank of Israel spokesperson refused to comment on the issue.

## Koor agrees to sell Hanita to US firm

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Koor Industries yesterday announced it has signed an agreement in principle to sell its 100 percent holding in Hanita Metal Industries to the US-based Greenfield Industries, Koor yesterday informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

The agreement was signed about four years after the manufacturer of industrial cutting tools was close to shutting down because of large debts. Through internal restructuring, Koor has turned the company around and made it into a well-known brand name on the local market and US market.

Koor is expected to reap capital gains of NIS 35 million once the agreement is finalized. Capital market sources estimate the company will be sold for \$20m. to \$25m.

Koor Chief Executive Benjamin

Gaon said the group's decision to sell is in the framework of its philosophy of focusing on core businesses and gradually selling lines that don't fit with those areas.

Greenfield is one of America's largest industrial cutting-tools and related products manufacturers.

The public company which is traded in New York completed the first nine months of 1996 with sales of \$384.1m, up 28% over the same period last year. The growth was mainly due to acquisitions. In the reported period, operating income reached \$46.9m, while net income reached \$20.9m.

Finalization of the agreement is subject to the completion of due diligence, signing of a more detailed agreement and other approvals, including the approval of both companies' boards of directors.

## ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
German mark (€100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
Japanese yen (¥200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			
(Rates very higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.1.97)			
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS			
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes
U.S. dollar	3.5873	3.6482	3.6172
German mark	2.2538	2.2661	2.2590
French franc	6.4049	6.4915	6.4461
Japanese yen (100)	0.6029	0.6127	0.6088
Dutch florin	2.7788	2.8218	2.7933
Swiss franc	1.8124	1.8417	1.8296
Saudi riyal	2.3554	2.3834	2.3604
Spanish peseta	0.4850	0.4728	0.4811
Norwegian krone	0.5069	0.5151	0.5117
Denish krona	0.5942	0.5429	0.5268
Finland mark	0.8887	0.8917	0.8811
Canadian dollar	2.3890	2.4347	2.4071
Australian dollar	2.5113	2.5519	2.4727
S. African rand	0.8817	1.0031	0.9712
Belgian franc (10)	2.3843	2.4410	2.4068
Austrian schilling (10)	2.0832	2.1270	2.1000
Italian lira (1000)	4.8000	4.8000	4.8000
Egyptian dinar	0.8200	1.0000	1.0000
Egyptian pound	8.9352	4.0201	4.0201
Irish punt	5.3201	5.4080	5.22
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4376	2.4770	2.38
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.			
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI			

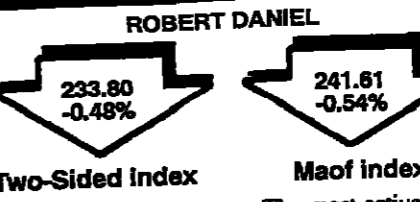
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Shares slip as traders watch inflation



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

Shares slipped as investors awaited today's inflation report for clues to whether the central bank will cut interest rates.

Israel Chemicals, IDB Holdings, Elron Electronic, Osem and Dekel led the market down. Bucking the trend were Clal Development and Israel Land Development and Mofet.

Stocks remain near three-year highs. The Two-sided Index of 100 leading issues dropped 0.48 percent to 233.8, while the Maof Index of 25 top stocks fell 0.54 percent to 241.61.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 172 million of shares traded, 7.4% higher than the month's daily average of NIS 160.2m. Seven issues fell for every four that rose.

Daniella L. Finn, head of research at Danucha Securities and Investments, estimated the consumer price index rose 0.6% or 0.7% for December, a figure that should prompt central bank Governor Jacob Frenkel to lower interest rates.

In addition, a report from the central bank yesterday showed that the economy slowed in the fourth quarter.

The rate cut "definitely won't be more than half a point" as "Frenkel is known to be pretty adamant about his contractionary monetary policy," Finn said.

Lower rates cut corporate borrowing costs and can boost profits and stock prices.

UK, French stocks gain

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British stocks posted strong gains yesterday for the second day in a row, as fears of an imminent rise in British interest rates subsided and tame US inflation data reduced the pressure for a near-term US interest rate rise. Led by surging bank and supermarket stocks, the FTSE 100 finished 60.9 points higher at a record 4,168.2.

Uncertainty ahead of the release of December price data from the US kept the German share market muted, with the blue chip DAX index sliding slightly. The 30-share DAX closed the bourse session down 6.07 points at 2,948.88 as the market awaited the US report. In post-bourse trade the index rose 22.06 to 2,978.84.

Paris's CAC-40 index stormed to close firmly above the psychological 2,400 level. The market was already well supported on bullish profit expectations and low rates for 1997. When US inflation and retail sales data was reported in line with expectations a buying spree in bonds and equities was triggered. The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed up 40.87 points at 2,402.14.

Dow sets another record

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average galloped to its sixth record close of the year yesterday, powered by gains in technology companies and economically sensitive stocks. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow jumped 83.11 points to 6,762.29, beating Monday's record finish of 6,709.18. In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a 2.1 margin on heavy volume of 532 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at \$250.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs \$852.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Volume, % Change. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Name, Price, Change, Name, Price, Change. Includes sections for NEW YORK, LONDON, and PARIS.

Key Representative Rates

Table with columns: US Dollar, Sterling, Mark, and their respective rates.

INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last Change, and values for DJ Industrials, DJ 30 Comp, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last Change, and values for FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, etc.

Israeli stocks in US

Table with columns: Stock Name, Last Change, and values for ANEK, AMK, HANADIA, etc.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table with columns: Currency, Last Change, and values for Pound, D-Mark, Franc, etc.

Labor rates

Table with columns: Labor Rate, Last Change, and values for 12 months, 6 months, etc.

Foreign financial data courtesy of

CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem, Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758828 Fax. 02-244976

INFLATION MARKETS

US commodities

Table with columns: Commodity Name, Last Change, and values for Cocoa, Coffee, etc.

London commodities

Table with columns: Commodity Name, Last Change, and values for Cocoa, Coffee, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last Change, and values for Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last Change, and values for Gold, Silver, etc.

London metal fixes

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last Change, and values for Gold, Silver, etc.

# Capriati stumbles, Hingis overcomes lapse

MELBOURNE (AP) — Jennifer Capriati's comeback stumbled yesterday with a tearful exit at the Australian Open, the same place where her life started skidding downhill four years ago.

No. 4 Martina Hingis, at 16 the same age Capriati was in her last visit Down Under, overcame a display of temper on her way to winning her first-round match but gave an upbeat assessment: "I'm still young. I still have time to get higher and higher."

Men's No. 1 Pete Sampras, the 1994 Australian Open champion, managed to come in out of the 32-degree (90F) heat in just one hour, 40 minutes with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Romanian qualifier Dinu Pescariu.

No. 11 seed Jim Courier, the 1992 and 1993 winner, let a 5-2 lead slip away in the final set before prevailing 6-7(4-7), 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 8-6 over Dutch player Sjeng Schalken in four hours.

No. 3 Goran Ivanisevic, still seeking his first Grand Slam title, beat Australia's Ben Ellwood 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

Capriati, in reaching the final in Sydney last week, looked as if she were well on her way to coming back from an arrest, a long layoff and drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

But nervous and tentative, she committed 69 unforced errors and lost her serve five straight times in the first two sets on her way to a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 loss to Jolene Watanabe, ranked 78th. Capriati, No. 24, saved two match points on Watanabe's serve in the final game before bowing out with a netted backhand.

She broke down in tears after the match and again soon afterward when asked whether she was aware of the hopes and support of her fans.

"Yeah, just being out there, I heard the cries," she said as tears welled in her eyes. With a forlorn look on her face, she rubbed the tears away with her hand, but couldn't go on.

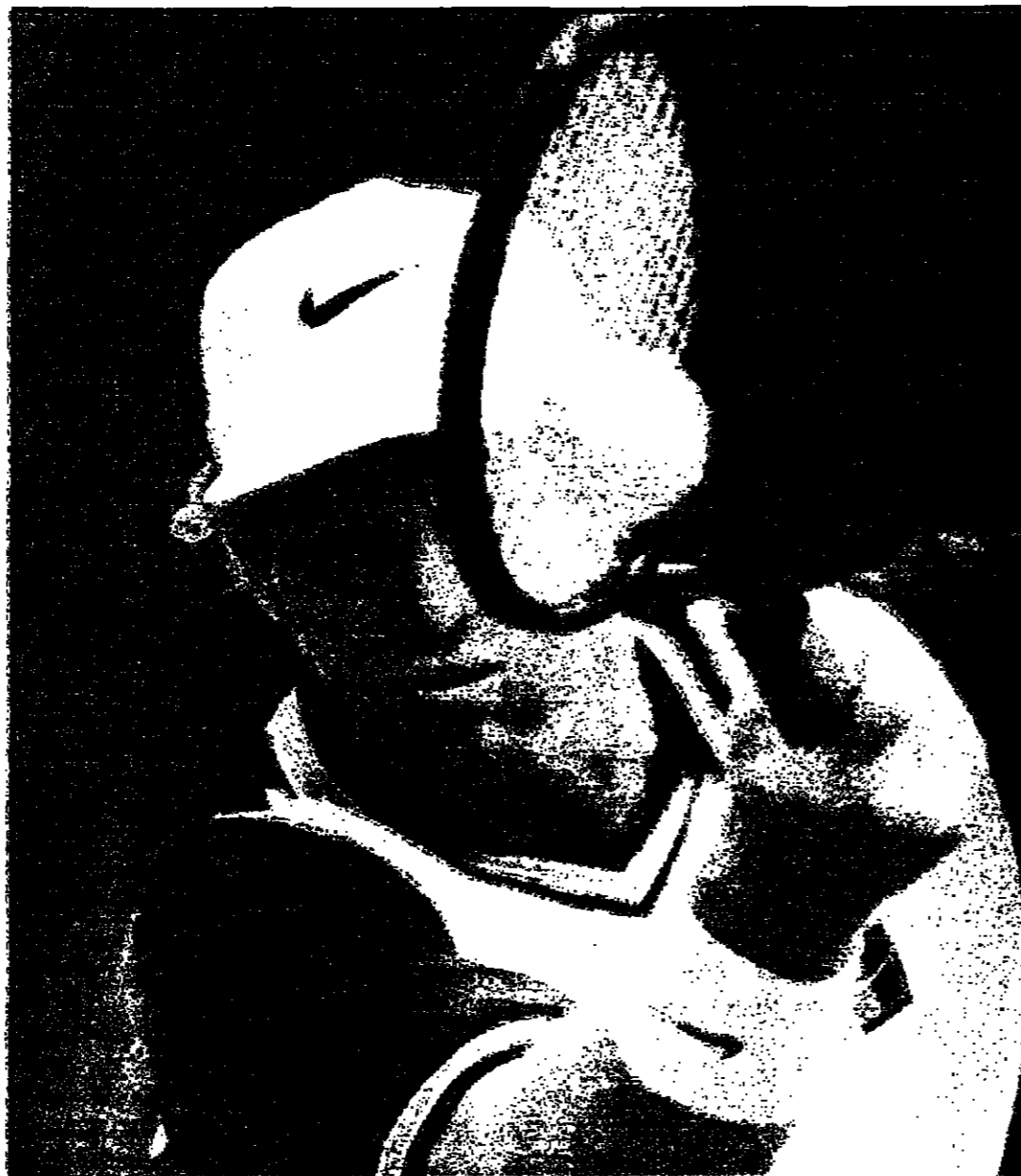
Watanabe sent a series of lobs and topspin shots up into the whipping winds and waited for Capriati to miss.

"It was the perfect opportunity to beat her after her big wins last week," said Watanabe. "She may be a little tired physically and mentally. The conditions definitely favored me with the wind."

Of Capriati, she cautioned: "Everyone loses. And if she lets it bother her, she's doomed."

Hingis, however, stated firmly that "you never want to lose to a lower-ranked player at a Grand Slam tournament."

A fit of annoyance cost Hingis four straight games and a warning for throwing her racket in the second set before she recovered for a 6-1, 7-5 victory over German Barbara Rittner.



**MARATHON WIN** — It took Jim Courier four hours to overcome the Netherlands' Sjeng Schalken in a five-set, first-round win at the Australian Open yesterday.

"I lost concentration a little bit. I am very happy I found it," she said.

The Swiss teen, her sights set on No. 1, coasted through the first set and broke Rittner to start the second.

But then as she chased Rittner around the court in the next game, the German stretched wide and flipped a backhand crosscourt passing shot by her. Hingis slipped into a series of errors, including two missed overheads, and found herself trailing 4-1.

"She made just a great passing shot. I thought I had this point already. Somehow I lost a little bit of concentration," Hingis said.

Then it was Hingis' turn to win four straight games. Rittner spun her for 5-5 and, trailing 6-5, put her behind 0-40 before falling victim to her own overzealousness and some tough shots by Hingis.

"If she keeps going like this, I

think she could be No. 1 in a couple of years," Rittner said.

Rittner said Hingis plays as if she had the experience of a 24-year-old, and the racket-throwing "is the only point where you can really see she's still 16."

Hingis acknowledged with a grin that "it was my goal not to get a warning this year" but succeeded for only one tournament, in Sydney last week, when she beat Capriati in the final.

She has been advised not to show her emotions on court, but "I think the people like me as I am out on the court," she added. "I can smile, I can throw my racket, but that's just my personality."

Another Swiss player, Patty Schnyder, ousted No. 6 seed Iva Majoli of Croatia 7-5, 6-1.

No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, a 1994 and 1995 finalist in the Australian, squeezed out a 6-4, 6-

4 victory over Italy's Gloria Pizzichini.

Last year's women's runner-up, No. 5 seed Anke Huber, struggled to a 0-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Amy Frazier.

No. 7 Lindsay Davenport beat France's Nathalie Dechy 4-6, 6-1, 6-1. No. 8 Irina Spirlea ousted Japan's Naoko Kijimuta 6-2, 6-4. No. 9 Karina Habsudova beat Croatia's Silvija Talaja 6-1, 6-2. No. 14 Mary Joe Fernandez beat Laura Golarsa of Italy 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, and No. 15 Chanda Rubin defeated Slovakia's Radka Zrubakova 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

Men's seeds who advanced also included No. 8 Wayne Ferreira, a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 winner over Spain's Carlos Costa; No. 9 Marcelo Rios, a 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-3 winner over Czech Petr Korda; No. 10 Albert Costa, who ousted Australia's Patrick Rafter 7-5, 6-2, 7-5.

# Dalglish replaces Keegan ... again

LONDON (Reuter) - Kenny Dalglish was named Kevin Keegan's successor as manager of Premier League club Newcastle United yesterday.

The official announcement came six days after Keegan quit the job which he had held for almost five years.

It would be the second time in his career that Dalglish, 45, has replaced Keegan in a key position. In 1977 he took his place in the Liverpool team following Keegan's transfer to Hamburg.

Dalglish was working in as a scout for Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers when he was approached to take over at St James' Park. The only other serious contender for the job was Bobby Robson, who is currently coaching Barcelona.

Although rocked by Keegan's shock departure, Newcastle is still in with a very realistic chance of winning the title for the first time since 1927. They are currently fourth in the table, just five points

behind leaders Liverpool and with a match in hand.

If Dalglish does take over and succeeds in bringing the championship to Newcastle he would become the first manager to win the English title with three different clubs following three successes with Liverpool in 1986, 1988 and 1990 and Blackburn in 1995.

Boro loses 3 points

Middlesbrough, the last-place team in the Premier League, suffered a devastating blow yesterday when it was penalized three points for calling off a game at Blackburn last month.

A Football Association disciplinary panel also fined the club £50,000 for pulling out of the December 21 game at Ewood Park at the last minute.

Middlesbrough was also ordered to pay the cost of the hearing and could face a claim of compensation from Blackburn. The game will have to be played at a later date.

The decision leaves Middles-

brough with 15 points from 22 matches, four points behind 19th-place Southampton.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson pulled out of the Blackburn game 24 hours before it was scheduled to be played. He said he could not field a team because 23 players were sidelined by injuries, illness or suspension.

At the time, Blackburn caretaker manager Tony Parkes scoffed at the decision, saying, "Are we playing Sunday league football now?"

The FA panel said it concluded that Middlesbrough "did not have just cause for unilaterally calling off the match."

Robson made no immediate comment after Tuesday's sanctions were announced. Middlesbrough can appeal within 14 days of receiving written confirmation of the ruling.

"The situation, I'm sorry to say, is truly tragic," he said. "I think we'll be relegated. I'm practically certain of it."

# Grobbelaar, Segers, Fashanu go on trial

WINCHESTER (AP) — Premier League goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were handed huge sums of cash by a far eastern betting syndicate to make sure their teams lost games, a jury was told yesterday.

"In front of 50,000 fans and a TV audience of millions, a goalkeeper can't simply let the ball roll in between his legs," prosecutor David Calvert Smith said. "However, goalkeepers do make mistakes sometimes and therefore it may be that the odd deliberate mistake may escape attention."

Calvert Smith said Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper, was able to buy two Mercedes cars with the money he received from a betting scheme organized by a far eastern syndicate.

Segers, the former Wimbledon goalkeeper, deposited two large sums of cash into a Swiss branch of an American bank during the 1993 and 1994 seasons, the prosecutor said.

When Segers was interviewed by police, he said the money was the proceeds of other crimes he committed as a teenager and kept in a bank account in Jersey.

"But these were paid in immediately after matches had been lost by Wimbledon," Calvert Smith told the jury.

Grobbelaar, Zimbabwe's international goalkeeper, and the Dutch-born Segers went on trial yesterday along with former Wimbledon striker John Fashanu and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim at Winchester Crown Court.

The four are accused of conspiracy to give or accept cash to rig the results of certain Premier League games between 1991 and 1994, in the biggest match-fixing scandal in English soccer in 32 years. The four have denied the charges.

In the opening session of the trial, Calvert Smith said goalkeepers were the ideal players to approach for rigging match results.

"If you are a betting man and wished to tip the odds in your favor, the goalkeeper is the most obvious single player on the team to approach," he said. "He is the most obvious person to have a real influence on the results of the game."

Fashanu played the role of middleman in the schemes and there was evidence of frequent phone calls involving Lim and Fashanu and each of the two goalkeepers, Calvert Smith said.

Calvert Smith said Fashanu also received large amounts of money which could not be explained by his other business dealings. Much of the money came from Indonesia, he said.

The prosecution alleged that Fashanu handed over £40,000 to Grobbelaar following a Liverpool-Newcastle match in 1993. Newcastle won that game 3-0.

# Colts' Irsay at 73

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Robert Irsay, who in 1984 sneaked the NFL's Colts out of Baltimore in the middle of the night to Indianapolis, died yesterday, more than a year after a stroke. He was 73.

The Colts owner was vilified in Baltimore for moving the team, one of pro gridiron's most storied franchises.

Irsay, who earned a reputation as a meddlesome, tight-fisted tycoon in Baltimore, claimed he was driven out of the city by a hostile news media.

In March 1984, then-NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle said Irsay was "considering moving the Colts to Indianapolis, as well as Phoenix, Jacksonville or Memphis. Then on March 28, moving vans were sighted outside the Colts training facility at Owings Mills.

The next day, the Maryland legislature voted to give Baltimore the power to take over the Colts through eminent domain, and the city sent Irsay a telegram offering \$40 million for the franchise.

It was too late. The team already had left the previous night.

MIAMI (AP) — Even with Juwan Howard playing for the other side, the Miami Heat beat the Washington Bullets — barely.

Alonzo Mourning scored 32 points Monday night and the Heat withstood a furious fourth-quarter rally by Washington to win 98-95.

Howard, booted throughout the game because he spurned the Heat last summer, scored 23 points and helped the Bullets rally from an 82-50 deficit with 9 1/2 minutes left. But they failed to catch Miami, with Chris Webber and Tracy Murray missing 3-point attempts in the final 10 seconds.

Tim Hardaway scored 28 points as the Heat snapped Washington's four-game winning streak and closed to within one-half game of Atlantic Division leader New York.

The game marked Howard's first appearance at Miami Arena since July 17, when he attended a news conference to announce his signing with the Heat. Less than three weeks later, the NBA voided the seven-year, \$101 million deal, and Howard re-signed with the Bullets.

Hawks 93, Cavaliers 79

Christian Laettner scored 25 points as visiting Atlanta won its sixth straight.

Laettner, who had 26 in Atlanta's victory over San Antonio on Saturday, hit a high-arching 3-pointer to start an 11-2 run at the beginning of the fourth quarter that sent the Cavaliers to their fourth straight loss and fifth in eight games.

Jazz 97, 76ers 96 (OT)

Utah made just one field goal in overtime, but ended an eight-game road losing streak.

John Stockton and John Hornacek each scored three points in overtime for the Jazz, who were just 1-for-7 from the floor in OT.

Karl Malone had 28 points and nine rebounds to help the Jazz end a four-game losing streak.

Mark Davis set a career-high with 24 points for the 76ers, who have now lost 19 of their last 20 and nine in a row.

# Dallas ends 10-year drought in Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — Rookie Jamie Langenbrunner scored the go-ahead goal on a power play in the second period as the Dallas Stars got the franchise's first victory at Montreal in 10 years, 2-1 Monday night.

Langenbrunner swept Benoit Hogue's cross-ice pass past goaltender Jocelyn Thibault at the 16:06 mark, giving the Stars their first win at Montreal since February 1987, when the team was based in Minnesota. The Stars were 0-8-2 in their previous 10 trips to Montreal.

Jere Lentzen also scored for Dallas, which improved the league's best road record to 14-6-1. Islanders 4, Rangers 2

Tommy Salo outplayed Mike Richter in goal as the visiting Islanders snapped their seven-game winless streak.

The Islanders jumped to a 3-0 lead on goals by Zigmund Palffy, Brent Hughes and Travis Green, then nearly reverted to their habit of blowing third-period leads.

But after giving up the Rangers' second goal, by Luc Robitaille, Salo kept the Rangers from tying with a strong third period when the Islanders were outshot 13-11.

The Islanders were 0-6-1 in their previous seven games, and had lost leads in eight of 16 games when leading after the second period. The victory gave the Islanders a 2-1-1 record against the Rangers, a team they trailed by 19 points in the standings before Monday night's game.

# Heat edge Bullets

Monday's results:  
Orlando 114, New Jersey 111  
Utah 97, Philadelphia 96 (OT)  
Miami 98, Washington 95  
Atlanta 93, Cleveland 79  
Phoenix 105, Dallas 98  
Charlotte 102, Denver 100 (OT)

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4 victory over Italy's Gloria Pizzichini.

Last year's women's runner-up, No. 5 seed Anke Huber, struggled to a 0-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Amy Frazier.

No. 7 Lindsay Davenport beat France's Nathalie Dechy 4-6, 6-1, 6-1. No. 8 Irina Spirlea ousted Japan's Naoko Kijimuta 6-2, 6-4. No. 9 Karina Habsudova beat Croatia's Silvija Talaja 6-1, 6-2. No. 14 Mary Joe Fernandez beat Laura Golarsa of Italy 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, and No. 15 Chanda Rubin defeated Slovakia's Radka Zrubakova 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

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Monday's results:  
Ottawa 4, Boston 3  
Dallas 2, Montreal 1  
N.Y. Islanders 4, N.Y. Rangers 2  
Washington 6, Toronto 3  
Tampa Bay 2, Chicago 0  
San Jose 5, Phoenix 4

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העיתון הירושלמי

WHAT'S ON

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC MICHAEL AIZENSTADT English pianist Benjamin Frith, who was the winner of the 1989 Arthur Schnabel International Piano Master Competition...



SEMILAR HELEN KAYE The first of the six Emil Habibi memorial monthly seminars gets underway with a panel discussion on place and identity as expressed in poetry in Israel...

DANCE HELEN KAYE Tamara Mielnik's 10-year-old Jerusalem Dance Theater celebrates with a gala of five works by five choreographers...

JAZZ HELEN KAYE Chicago jazzman Johnny Frigo only started playing violin in the '80s, and in only three years, he got so good at it that Johnny Carson had him on the Tonight show...

Ilan Dar is GSS head Avraham Shalom in 'Bus No. 300'

will be singer Nissim Yemini, in a salute to the late Nat King Cole. This is the fourth program in the Chicago jazz series...

TELEVISION ELANA CHIPMAN

The drama series Bus No. 300 (Channel 1, 9:15 p.m.), based on one of the country's biggest scandals, starts tonight. A bus from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon was hijacked by four terrorists...

TV

CHANNEL 1 6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 1 15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Body 16:00 Who's Mind of the Day?

CHANNEL 2 7:00 Filmmakers 7:30 The Five Mrs. Buchanans

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 4 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News Flash, Family Album, Local Broadcast, etc.

19:30 News Flash 20:00 Conference Call with Nissim Mischal 21:00 No Man's Land

21:30 Escape to Victory (1981) 22:00 Escape to Victory (1981) 22:30 Escape to Victory (1981)

CABLE

18:00 Cartoons 18:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:15 Discussion in Arabic

MOVIES

Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:15 \* The Mirror Has Two Faces 7:30, 9:45 \* Goodnight Beethoven 5, 7:30, 9:45



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Tempting vegetable? (6) 5 To change width, let's cut word (8)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled letters.

ACROSS 5 Reveal as true (5) 8 Definite (8) 9 Worship (8)

SOLUTIONS

THRESHOLD D O M I N I O N A K E C O R P O R A T I O N S I M P L E M A T H E M A T I C S

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 5 Reveal as true (5) 8 Definite (8) 9 Worship (8)

RADIO

6:05 VOICE OF MUSIC 6:05 Morning Concert 9:05 Hugo Wolf

PRIME SPORTS

8:00 Tennis: Australian Open 8:00 ITU Triathlon 9:00 Astan Soccer

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:05 State of the

# Olmert trial begins

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert went on trial yesterday, accused of campaign financing fraud in the 1988 election, when he was Likud treasurer.

"Although I am not accused of doing anything for myself or acting to benefit personally, the accusations are incorrect and I believe this too will be proven," Olmert told reporters at Tel Aviv District Court. The charges also relate to the local council elections in 1989.

Olmert insisted he had no part in an alleged fictitious public relations firm set up to receive and disguise corporate donations barred by law. The charge sheet said Olmert "intentionally misled the State Comptroller" by "hiding the fact that the Likud received, against the provisions of the Campaign Funding Law, contributions from Israeli corporations."

According to the indictment, the corporations received receipts indicating they had paid for "advertising," thereby enabling them to claim the campaign donations as business expenses, in violation of tax laws.

The indictment charged that in its report to the State Comptroller after the elections in 1988, the Likud did not include the contributions from the corporations in the total for campaign contributions received.

"We are interested in as speedy and short a trial as possible. There is no point in stretching anything out," Olmert said. In a written statement distributed to the press, Olmert said: "At all the relevant dates mentioned in the indictment, Olmert did not know anything about the raising of contributions from the corporations, and therefore, did not know anything about the way they were raised, recorded or about the receipts issued, nor



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert stands outside the Tel Aviv District Court where his trial on campaign fraud began yesterday.

anything regarding what was done with these donations."

In an effort to shorten the trial, Olmert and his lawyers did not contest the claims by the prosecution that the Likud actively sought con-

tributions from the corporations.

Olmert has hired a public relations firm to represent him during the trial and is paying for it out of his own pocket, so as not to take the Jerusalem Municipality

spokesman away from his regular work, the public relations company said.

A court spokesman said the trial would resume on February 9.

# Hanegbi asks PM to publish protocol of Bar-On meeting

By EVELYN GORDON

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's permission to publish the protocol of last Friday's cabinet meeting on the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, to finally lay to rest once and for all arguments over what was or was not said at the meeting, he told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Hanegbi also told the committee he had reviewed his entire list of candidates with Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak, who expressed an opinion on each of them, including Bar-On. However, he refused to tell the committee what Barak's opinions were, just as he avoided telling the cabinet on Friday.

"Several months ago, at the beginning of our work together, we agreed that our conversations would remain private," Hanegbi explained when asked why he did not relay Barak's opinions to the cabinet. He added that he was under no formal obligation to consult Barak at all, but had felt it would only be polite to inform him before he heard it on the radio.

This answer satisfied neither coalition nor opposition MKs, however.

"Had the president of the Supreme Court opposed the appointment, or responded with silence (which is also a response), one would have supposed you would have taken the trouble to inform the cabinet of this, in the framework of your presentation of the range of considerations relat-

ing to a cabinet decision on such an important matter," wrote Communications Minister Limor Livnat in an angry letter to Hanegbi on Monday.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said it was obvious that Barak had opposed Bar-On's appointment, since if he had approved it, Hanegbi would have told the cabinet. However, he said, Hanegbi's failure to tell the cabinet explicitly of Barak's opposition was very grave, since even if the ministers decided to ignore Barak's opinion, they still had a right to know what it was.

Hanegbi also told the committee that the cabinet misunderstood him when he said outgoing attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair "welcomed" the appointment. Ben-Yair's statement was merely an expression of pleasure that someone had finally been found to replace him, Hanegbi said; it did not relate to the specific choice of Bar-On at all.

A substantial discussion was prompted by a motion for the agenda from Labor MKs Ephraim Sneh, Ra'anan Cohen and Moshe Shahal. The three were concerned by the question of what Hanegbi had really said regarding Barak's opinion of the appointment, the hapless way the government handled the appointment, and the choice of someone with clear political affiliations as attorney-general. This latter point infuriated Hanegbi, who said he refused to accept that political affiliation should automatically bar someone from high office. Dozens of judges have had known political associations, he said.

### WEATHER

Jerusalem 9-15  
Tel Aviv 11-18  
Beersheva 10-18  
Haifa 10-18  
Samarra 11-18  
Doha 11-21

Forecast: Rainy.

AROUND THE WORLD	LOW	HIGH	COND.
Amsterdam	-02	05	cloudy
Berlin	-02	05	cloudy
Brussels	-02	05	cloudy
London	-02	05	cloudy
Paris	-02	05	cloudy
Rome	01	08	cloudy
Tel Aviv	11	18	cloudy
Beersheva	10	18	cloudy
Haifa	10	18	cloudy
Samarra	11	18	cloudy
Doha	11	21	cloudy

### Winning numbers and cards

The winning numbers in yesterday's weekly Lotto draw were 7, 8, 14, 19, 33, and 44. The additional number was 36.

The winning cards in yesterday's daily Chance draw were the nine of spades, 10 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

# Eizenstat calls on Jewish leaders to cooperate with Swiss authorities

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

Switzerland is moving properly to review its financial relationship with Nazi Germany, Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat said Monday, and he called on Jewish community leaders to cooperate with Swiss authorities.

"I think it is important to understand that the Swiss government is moving in a very appropriate way to try to look at a very painful period," he told B'nai B'rith.

Eizenstat's opinion was not shared by US Senator Al D'Amato, who on Monday repeated his assertion that the Swiss are using "delaying tactics" in confronting their relations with the Reich.

But D'Amato also warned against public threats to the Swiss.

"I think we must be very careful in the manner in which we forward," he told the Orthodox Union in New York. "I do not think that we should be in a posi-

tion where we are calling for specific action and sanctions at this time. I think that would be counter-productive."

Their comments were a deft challenge to the World Jewish Congress, which suggested last week that it would call for a boycott of the Swiss banks unless the Bern government chastised Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, the economics minister, who labeled calls for a Swiss Holocaust compensation fund "blackmail."

"If it does not come to a formal denial, Jewish restitution organizations... will very well take this into consideration when they discuss in early February officially calling for a boycott of Swiss banks," the WJC executive director, Elan Steinberg, told the Swiss newspaper *Tages-Anzeiger*. It was the second time within 12 months

that the WJC raised the prospect of a boycott.

Foreign Minister David Levy has also warned against a boycott.

Eizenstat, who has served for two years as the Clinton administration's point man on property restitution, is heading a government panel of historians that is reviewing the American role in retrieving and distributing Nazi gold and other assets after the war.

"It is very important for my mission that we continue to work with the Swiss government and other governments as they go through their review processes," he told B'nai B'rith.

The Swiss government has established an international commission of historians, including Saul Friedlander, for an inquiry into the war-time relations between Switzerland and Nazi Germany. The commission's work, which is to begin this month, is expected to take several years.

# Suspicious Swiss guard gives Jews bank documents

ZURICH (Reuter) - A suspicious security guard at Switzerland's biggest bank stole old documents bound for the shredder and gave them to Swiss Jews in the belief they could help the search for Holocaust funds, the bank said yesterday.

Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) acknowledged the plan to shred the wartime-era documents was a clear violation of the government's ban on destroying any material that could be important in the search for dormant Jewish accounts. But it denied the documents were related in any way to dormant accounts. Jewish groups have alleged Swiss banks are still hoarding billions of dollars in Nazi victims' wealth.

"UBS strongly regrets the incident," it said in a statement, noting the employee had also violated the bank's own blanket ban on destroying any documents. A UBS spokesman said the documents were purely historical in nature and of no relevance to the search for lost Jewish money. "There were no client documents," she said, adding: "In principle the documents and the Holocaust debate have nothing to do with each other." Zurich prosecutors are investigating the matter.

The documents relate to the Eidgenossische Bank, a bank that UBS acquired in the 1940s. A UBS employee had been searching through the bank's files and released some of the documents which he considered unimportant for shredding. They included minutes of meetings, annual reports and other such documents, the spokesman said.

The security guard, however, discovered and removed these documents from UBS last week and handed them over to Zurich's Jewish community, which then contacted Zurich prosecutors.

UBS said it was cooperating with prosecutors, but its own investigation showed the employee had no intention of destroying documents that could be of use in the inquiry into Swiss relations with Nazi Germany during World War II.

# Polish prime minister expresses support for Jewish claims from Swiss

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and Him

Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz expressed support yesterday for world Jewish claims for compensation for Holocaust-era assets in Swiss banks.

Cimoszewicz was speaking yesterday evening at a press conference with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

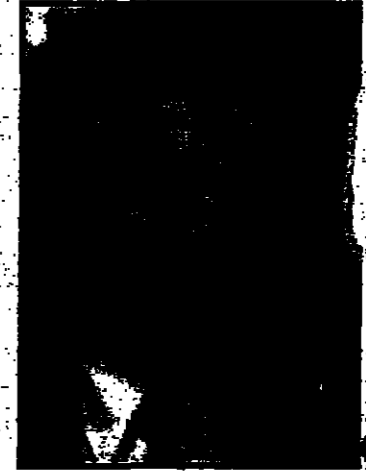
A substantial number of the Jews who deposited funds in Swiss banks were from Poland, and Cimoszewicz said this money should be returned to their heirs.

He said that Poland was one of the first countries which deemed the post-war financial arrangements "illegal and immoral," including that between Poland and Switzerland.

Before the press conference, the two prime ministers signed agreements for cooperation, one in telecommunications and the other in tourism.

In their discussions, Cimoszewicz asked that the two countries cancel their requirements for entry visas. However, Netanyahu explained that Israel was trying to reduce the number of illegal foreign workers in the country, and some of those workers are Polish citizens.

Yesterday evening, the Polish prime minister met with represen-



Polish PM Cimoszewicz (Ariel Aronowicz)

tatives of the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the World Federation of Polish Jewry to discuss the issue of restitution for communal properties seized during the Holocaust.

The Swiss Parliament is currently discussing compensation for the communal Jewish property in nine Polish cities and towns where Jews still live today but Poland has not agreed to negotiate with world Jewish representatives on compensation for Jewish communal properties in hundreds of other locations.

Inflation for 1996 - 10.6

# Knesset

Cabinet accord: B

By DAVID MALKIN

Evil by Ro

By JUDY SIEGEL

Holocaust... have found... victims... families by... Ashkenazi... Since the... examined by... beneath a... ed in the... the babies... spring of... there.

The pioneer... published yesterday... Although infant... the Roman era... various places... five time the... reaction techni... the bones to... the babies.

Prof. Arielle... Hebrew Univer... Medical School... was a widespread... without... too many girls... was regarded

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